

GM recalls 300,000 Impalas over seat belt problem

Page B11

Facebook works to remove anti- gay hate speech

NEW YORK — Facebook is working with a gay-advocacy group to reduce the amount of hate speech and bullying on the online social hub.

Anti-gay bullying has been in the spotlight recently after the suicides of several gay teenagers, including Rutgers freshman Tyler Clementi, garnered national attention. According to police, the 19-year-old jumped off the George Washington Bridge after his roommate secretly recorded him with another male student and distributed video online.

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation says it reached out to Facebook last week after Internet bullies flooded a page it set up to honor teens who recently killed themselves in response to anti-gay hate. Facebook says its policies prohibit hateful content and it has systems in place to take down such posts as soon as possible. □



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Teen who strangled brother gets life in prison

By CHARLES WILSON,
Associated Press Writer

RISING SUN, Ind. — An Indiana teenager who admitted he strangled his 10-year-old brother and told police he identified with a TV serial killer was sentenced Friday to life in prison without parole.

Andrew Conley, 18, showed no emotion as a judge sentenced him for the Nov. 28 murder of his brother, Conner.

Judge James Humphrey could have sentenced Conley to life in prison without parole or to a lesser term of 45 to 65 years. But Humphrey said Conner's age outweighed any other factors such as mental illness. Conley could not have faced the death penalty because he was 17 when he killed his brother.

In chilling video played during a five-day sentencing hearing last month, Conley calmly described how he killed Conner while wrestling with the boy at their home in southern Indiana.

The teenager told police he caught his brother in a choke hold as the child who witnesses said had idolized him fought and pleaded for him to stop. Instead, Conley said he choked Conner until he passed out, then dragged the boy into the kitchen, put on gloves and continued strangling him for at least 20 minutes.

He then loaded his brother's body into the trunk of his car and drove to visit his girlfriend before dumping his body under some leaves along a park trail.

Conley told psychologists he had been unable to stop and felt as if he were watching the murder from outside himself. According to testimony by police and others, Conley said he had fantasized about killing people since he was in eighth grade and said he wanted to be like the fictional television serial killer Dexter from the Showtime series with the same name. Conley also claimed that he heard voices.

Continued on Page 3



FILE - In this Sept. 15, 2010 file photo, Andrew Conley is led into an Ohio County courtroom after a lunch break for his sentencing hearing in Rising Sun, Ind.

(AP Photo/David Kohl, File)

Pentagon warns gay troops to stay silent for now

Larry Whitt, who left the Navy after serving 12 years because he is gay, joins other protesters and supporters who watched President Obama arrive in Coral Gables, Fla. Monday, Oct. 11, 2010. Whitt was there to protest the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Three weeks from Election Day, President Barack Obama tries to buoy Democratic candidates, traveling to four states in seven days, including a stop in South Florida.

Associated Press
Page A4



The Big Dig



Miners watch as the drill machine 'Sissi' breaks through the rock at the final section Faido-Sedrun, at the construction site of the NEAT Gotthard Base Tunnel Oct. 15, 2010. With a length of 35 miles crossing the Alps, the world's longest train tunnel should become operational at the end of 2017.

Associated Press
Page 8



FILE - In this Aug. 20, 2009 file photo members of the El Dorado County Sheriff's Department J.P. Sesak, left, and Danny Bears prepare to hook approximately 300 pounds of marijuana plants to a CHP helicopter at a marijuana garden in a remote area of El Dorado county, Calif. Attorney General Eric Holder says the federal government will enforce its marijuana laws in California even if voters next month make the state the first in the nation to legalize the drug.

(AP Photo)

By **MARCUS WOHLSEN**
PETE YOST,
Associated Press Writer
SAN FRANCISCO — Attorney General Eric Holder says the federal government will enforce its marijuana laws in California even if voters next month make the state the first in the

nation to legalize the drug. The Justice Department strongly opposes California's Proposition 19 and remains firmly committed to enforcing the federal Controlled Substances Act in all states, Holder wrote in a letter to former chiefs of the U.S. Drug Enforcement

Feds oppose Calif. Prop 19 to legalize marijuana

Administration. The Associated Press obtained a copy of the letter, dated Wednesday.

"We will vigorously enforce the CSA against those individuals and organizations that possess, manufacture or distribute marijuana for recreational use, even if such activities are permitted under state law," Holder wrote.

The attorney general also said that legalizing recreational marijuana in California would be a "significant impediment" to the government's joint efforts with state and local law enforcement to target drug traffickers, who often distribute marijuana alongside cocaine and other drugs.

He said the ballot measure's passage would "significantly undermine" efforts to keep California communities safe. If Proposition 19 passes in November, California

would become the first state to legalize and regulate recreational pot use. Adults could possess up to one ounce of the drug and grow small gardens on private property. Local governments would decide whether to allow and tax sales of the drug.

The state has clashed with federal authorities over marijuana since 1996, when voters approved a first-of-its-kind ballot measure that allowed people to grow and use pot for medical purposes. Thirteen other states and the District of Columbia have legalized medical marijuana. Under federal law, marijuana is still strictly illegal. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the federal government has the right to enforce its ban regardless of state law.

During the Bush administration, retail pot dispensaries across the

state faced regular raids from federal anti-drug agents. Their owners were sometimes sentenced to decades in prison for drug trafficking.

Yet the medical marijuana industry still grew, and has expanded even more since Holder said last year that federal law enforcement would defer to state laws on using it for medicinal purposes.

Some legal scholars and policy analysts have questioned how much the Justice Department could really do on the ground to halt a state-sanctioned recreational pot trade.

Nearly all arrests for marijuana crimes are made at the state level. Of more than 847,000 marijuana-related arrests in 2008, for example, just over 6,300 suspects were booked by federal law enforcement, or fewer than 1 percent. □



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Andrew Conley, left, is led into an Ohio County courtroom for his sentencing hearing, Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2010 in Rising Sun, Ind. The 18-year-old pleaded guilty to murder Monday in the death of his brother, avoiding a jury trial.

CONLEY

Continued from Front Page

Three experts who examined Conley said he was severely mentally ill, while a fourth who didn't interview him said he believed Conley showed signs of being a psychopath.

Associated Press

None of them believed he hadn't known what he was doing was wrong.

Defense attorneys had argued for leniency, saying Conley was mentally ill and had cooperated with investigators. But Dearborn-Ohio County

Prosecutor Aaron Negangard, quoting Conley's own words to police, argued the teen was a "monster" who should "rot in jail for the rest of his life." He said Conner Conley's age when he died made the longer sentence appropriate and argued that even a 65-year sentence was too short, since Conley could be released in about 30 years with credit for time served and education while in prison.

Conley expressed remorse for his brother's death during testimony at his sentencing hearing. "I am very sorry for murdering my little brother and I will never forget how much he meant to me and so many other people," he said. "I still have no idea why this happened, but I really wish I did."

Conley told police he strangled his brother during what started as a wrestling match at their home in the small Ohio River town of Rising Sun. He wasn't eligible for the death penalty because he was 17 when he killed his brother. □

Former Wis. prosecutor sued by woman he 'sexted'



FILE - In this March 14, 2007 file photo, Calumet County District Attorney Ken Kratz gives closing arguments during a trial at the Calumet County Courthouse in Chilton, Wis. In a letter to The Associated Press on Friday Oct. 15, 2010, the Wisconsin Department of Justice confirms former Calumet County District Attorney Ken Kratz is the subject of an investigation that could lead to charges.

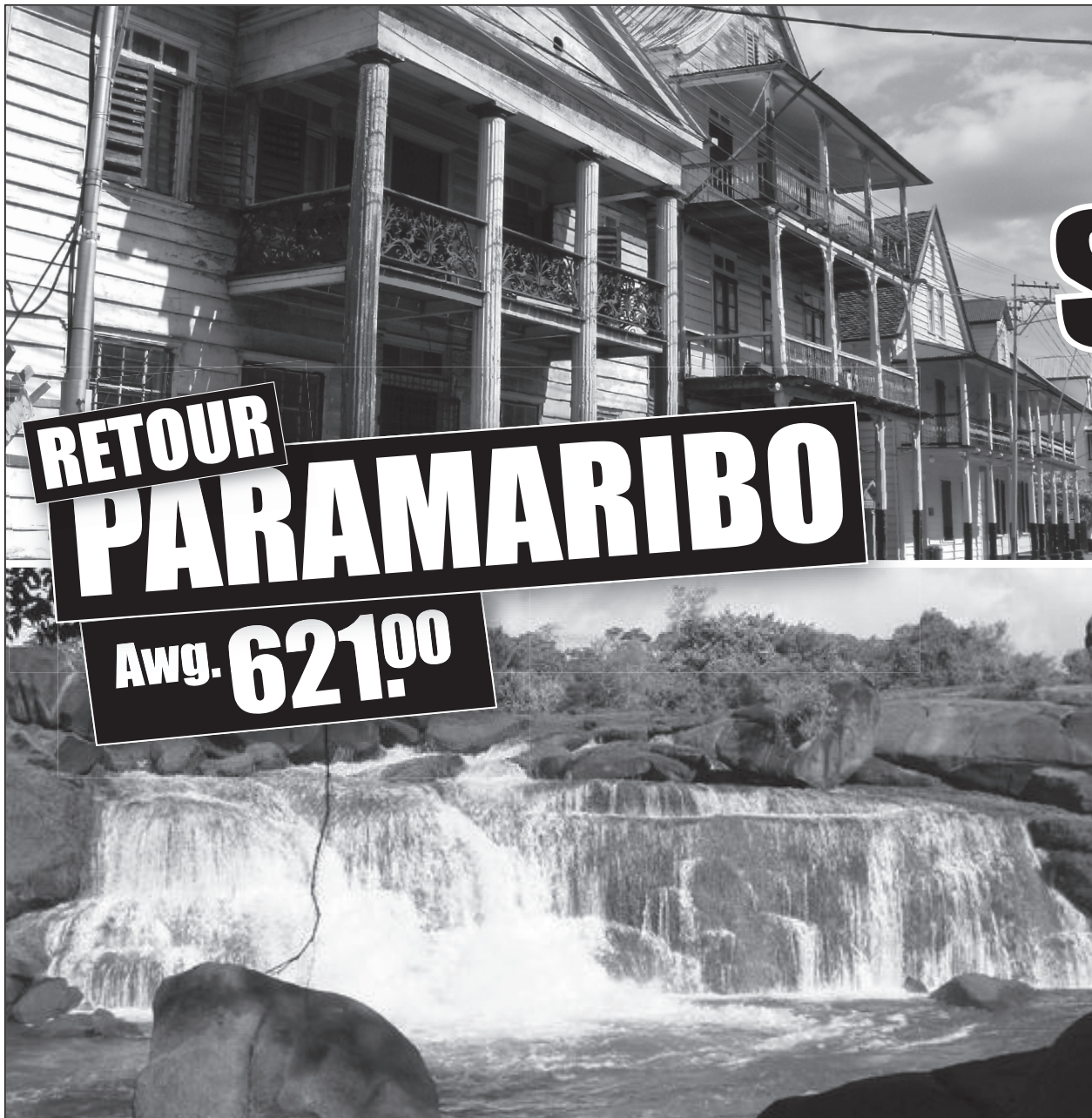
(AP Photo/Morry Gash, Pool, File)

By RYAN J. FOLEY,
Associated Press Writer

MADISON, Wis. — A domestic abuse victim has filed a lawsuit asking a judge to declare that her constitutional rights were violated by a prosecutor who sent her sexually harassing text messages.

Attorney Michael Fox filed the lawsuit Friday in federal court in Milwaukee on behalf of 26-year-old Stephanie Van Groll. Former Calumet County District Attorney Ken Kratz sent Van Groll 30 text messages seeking to start an affair with her last year while he was prosecuting her ex-boyfriend on a strangulation charge. The lawsuit notes that under Wisconsin law, witnesses have the right to be protected from harm arising out of their cooperation with law enforcement. Fox says the lawsuit aims to strengthen and clarify the rights of crime victims in Wisconsin.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages. □



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Local resident Jim Rinefierd holds up a US flag and a Human Rights Campaign flag during a rally in support of a repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy March 2010 at the Freedom Plaza in Washington, DC. The Pentagon urged troops Friday to keep quiet about their sexual orientation amid legal wrangling over a 17-year ban on gays serving openly in the military.

Pentagon warns gay troops to stay silent for now

By ANNE FLAHERTY,
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON – The Defense Department is warning gay troops that speaking up could still get them in trouble.

A new Pentagon memo says there is a "legally uncertain environment" while the Obama administration appeals a court ruling striking down the "don't ask, don't tell" law.

The law banned gays from serving openly in the military. The Defense Department has said it will comply with the court order while the case winds its way through the legal system. But in a memo released Friday, the Pentagon's top personnel chief says troops might suffer "adverse consequences for themselves or others" if they change their conduct and then the court's decision is reversed. □

Government reports \$1.3 trillion budget deficit

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER,
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON – The Obama administration said Friday the federal deficit hit a near-record \$1.3 trillion for the just-completed budget year. That means the government had to borrow 37 cents out of every dollar it spent as tax revenues continued to lag while spending on food stamps and unemployment benefits went up as joblessness neared double-digit levels in a struggling economy.

While expected, the eye-popping deficit numbers provide Republican critics of President Barack Obama's fiscal stewardship with fresh ammunition less than three weeks ahead of the midterm congressional elections. The deficit was \$122 billion less than last year, a modest improvement.

Voter anger over deficits and spending are a big problem for Democrats this election year. Republicans are slamming Democrats — who face big losses in November — for votes on Obama's \$814 billion economic stimulus last year and on former President George W. Bush's \$700 billion bailout of Wall Street.

Democrats say the recession would have been worse if the government hadn't stepped in with those programs to prop up the economy. They also note that most of the bailout, which began during the previous administration and was supported by many Republicans in Congress, has been repaid.

"The FY 2010 deficit remained elevated as a result of the severe economic recession, high unemployment, and the financial crisis inherited by the current administration," Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and acting White

House budget director Jeffrey Zients said in a statement announcing the results.

Rising deficits will present headaches for policymakers regardless of which party controls Congress after November.

The administration is projecting that the deficit for the 2011 budget year, which began on Oct. 1, will climb to \$1.4 trillion. Over the next decade, it will total \$8.47 trillion. Deficits of that size will constrain the administration's agenda over the next two years and will certainly be an issue in the 2012 presidential race.

"Since the Democrat majority has taken control of the nation's checkbook, deficits have risen to staggering levels and will average \$1 trillion annually for the next decade under the president's policies," said Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H.

"These abrupt and shocking changes in our fiscal situation cannot be dismissed as 'inherited' problems when the tally of the majority's spending spree has climbed into the trillions."

Government revenues rose by \$57.4 billion in 2010 compared to 2009, but more than two-thirds of that increase reflected higher payments from the Federal Reserve to the Treasury on all the investments the central bank has made to support the economy and the financial system during the recession. Income tax revenue fell slightly as unemployment stays near 10 percent nationwide, though corporate tax receipts were up almost 40 percent as the economy slowly pulls out of the worst recession since the Great Depression.

Continued on Page B11



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Soldier says ordered to delete Fort Hood videos

By ANGELA K. BROWN
MICHAEL GRACZYK,
Associated Press Writers

FORT HOOD, Texas — A soldier who recorded the terror of last year's deadly shooting rampage in Fort Hood using his cell phone was ordered by an officer to delete both videos, a military court heard Friday.

Under cross examination, Pfc. Lance Aviles told an Article 32 hearing that his noncommissioned officer ordered him to destroy the two videos on Nov. 5, the same day a gunman unleashed a volley of bullets inside a processing center at the Texas Army post. The footage could have been used as evidence at the military

hearing to decide if Maj. Nidal Hasan should stand trial in the shootings. The 40-year-old American-born Muslim has been charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder. Twenty-nine witnesses over three days have appeared either in a courtroom or by video link. Prosecutors have not said whether they'll seek the death penalty if the case goes to trial.

Aviles described how he was waiting for medical tests at the center with his battle buddy, Pfc. Kham Xiong, when he heard someone shout. Then the gunshots began. He said he saw a tanned,

balding man wearing an Army combat uniform and carrying a black pistol.

"I saw smoke coming from the pistol," Aviles told the court. The pair threw themselves to the floor. Aviles turned to his left to check Xiong and discovered his friend had been shot.

"His head was facing the left and a shard of his skull was sticking up," Aviles said.

Xiong, a 23-year-old father of three from St. Paul, Minn., was among the 13 who died in the attack. Aviles, the 20th person to provide testimony at the hearing, was not hurt.

Addressing the court via video link from Afghanistan, Spc. Megan Martin said she had



FILE - This April 9, 2010, file photo released by the Bell County Sheriffs Department shows U.S. Major Nidal Hasan at the San Antonio to Bell County Jail in Belton, Texas, after his Nov. 5 shooting spree at Fort Hood. More testimony from victims was heard during Hasan's Article 32 hearing Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010, at Fort Hood, Texas.

(AP Photo/Bell County Sheriffs Department, File)

Former Vt. man settles suit over condom in Whopper

By JOHN CURRAN,
Associated Press Writer

MONTPELIER, Vt. — A former Vermont man who claimed he bit into a Burger King sandwich and found an unwrapped condom has settled his lawsuit out of court, his lawyer said Friday. The attorney, Devin McLaughlin, said Friday that the details of the settlement are confidential and won't be disclosed, but the owner-operator of the Rutland restaurant says forensic analysis of the object and surveillance video prove it didn't originate in the Burger King.

"That was, from our side, pretty conclusive," said Joseph Zirkman, vice president and general counsel for Carrols Restaurant Group Inc., of Syracuse, N.Y. "They agreed to drop their claim and we agreed to drop our counterclaim. The parties agreed to pay their own legal costs, so you can draw your own conclusions."

In 2007, Van Miguel Hartless sued the store's

owners, who denied the claim and filed a countersuit.

At the time, Hartless was a student at Green Mountain College. He claimed he bit into a Southwestern Whopper and found a condom, which he said caused him "sustained pain and suffering, vomiting, nightmares, mental and emotional distress" and medical expenses. He couldn't be reached for comment Friday. He has since moved to El Paso, Texas, and efforts to reach him by telephone were unsuccessful Friday. He did not respond to a request for comment sent to him on Facebook, and his lawyer wouldn't say where he lives or make him available for comment.

"The lawsuit has been resolved upon terms acceptable to each of the parties, and those terms are confidential," McLaughlin said.

The Rutland Herald, which first reported the settlement Friday, says Hartless and the company asked a court on Oct. 6 to dismiss the case. □

been waiting to take medical tests when saw a man to her left stand up and shout "Allahu Akbar!" — "God is great!" in Arabic — then start firing a weapon.

He "started shooting to the left of me in a fan motion, left to right," Martin said.

She described the weapon as "a small handgun (with) ... a green light and a red laser."

Capt. Melissa Kale said the gun was black and had "a red laser and a green laser."

Only one witness has testified that he saw two weapons.

Kale, who also is serving in Afghanistan and spoke via satellite link, broke down in tears as she described how she tried to pull Sgt. Amy Krueger out of the line of fire. Twenty-nine-year-old Krueger was killed in the attack.

"I tried to pull Sgt. Krueger with me," she sobbed. "She didn't move. I had to leave her there."

Also talking from Afghanistan

and with the sound of jets flying overhead, Maj. Eric Torina testified that he saw Maj. Libardo Eduardo Caraveo just after he had been fatally shot, sitting in a chair as if he was still waiting for his medical exam.

The motionless 52-year-old sat "with his head down like he was almost sleeping, but with a bullet hole in his head, dripping blood," he said.

Martin described how she saw Capt. John Gaffaney attempting to charge at the gunman to prevent further bloodshed. Gaffaney, a 56-year-old psychiatric nurse preparing to deploy to Iraq, was shot at close range and died.

"I could not look away. I laid as still as I could. I couldn't stop watching. It was a nightmare that reoccurs," said Martin, who belongs to the 467th Medical Detachment — the unit that Hasan was supposed to deploy with. □

Factory involved in Hungary sludge flood restarts



Outside view of the Ajka alumina factory on early Friday, Oct. 15, 2010 in Ajka, 156 kms southwest of Budapest, Hungary.

PABLO GORONDI

Associated Press Writer

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP)

— Production restarted Friday at the metals plant whose broken reservoir unleashed a massive flood of caustic red sludge, even as villagers began returning to one of the affected towns in western Hungary despite warnings from environmentalists that it was too early and too dangerous

to return.

Some 800 Kolontar residents were evacuated last Saturday after authorities said a wall of the factory reservoir could collapse further, releasing a second wave of red sludge after a calamitous break Oct. 4 created a deadly torrent. Nine people died in the toxic flood and around 50 are still hospitalized, several in serious condition.

On Friday, about 30 people

were driven to Kolontar in buses from a sports arena in the nearby town of Ajka, where they had been staying.

“Others are returning in their own vehicles from the homes of friends and relatives in the area,” disaster agency spokeswoman Gyorgyi Tottos said.

The plant at the center of the catastrophe, the Ajkai Timfoldgyar metals plant belonging to MAL Rt., or the Hungarian Aluminum Production and Trade Co., restarted operations late Friday.

“As a result of preparatory tasks, the restart of the technological processes at the plant has begun,” said Timea Petroczi, a spokeswoman for Gyorgy Bakondi, a former head of the national disaster agency who was appointed by the government to take temporary control of MAL Rt.

“It will take a maximum of four days to reach normal operations. Full capacity will be reached next Tuesday.”

Bakondi and an 18-member committee now have a decisive say in all aspects of the company and were talking with managers

about how best to ramp up operations at the plant, which employs 1,100 people.

A protective wall of dolomite and earth — 610 yards long, with an average height of nearly 9 feet — has been built in Kolontar to shield the area from further spills of the red sludge, a highly caustic waste produced when making alumina, which is used to make aluminum.

“We just got back into our house and we’re going to stay,” Peter Veingartner, a 31-year-old body shop mechanic, told The Associated Press over the phone from Kolontar. “It seems that most people are coming back to Kolontar ... even those who lost their homes say they want to rebuild here.”

Trucks carrying rubble were all over town and the home of Veingartner’s aunt, Erzsebet, was among those being torn down, either because they were considered uninhabitable or stood in the way of the protective wall. Veingartner’s house was on high ground and untouched by the flood.

“The streets are being constantly sprinkled and they’re bulldozing the houses in the area that can’t be salvaged, so there’s still a lot of dust,” he said.

Authorities refused to let journalists into Kolontar on Friday.

Greenpeace said it was too early to send residents back into Kolontar or restart the alumina plant because there was not enough data yet on the area’s safety.

“The exact causes of last week’s red sludge catastrophe still have not been clarified,” Greenpeace Hungary said.

Greenpeace also warned about the high levels of airborne dust from the demolition work and the red sludge, which was starting to dry up.

“No reassuring information has come to light that would support the safety of staying

in Kolontar in the long term,” Greenpeace said. “No one has released exact data about the short- and long-term effects of the high content of fine dust in the air.”

Tottos, the disaster agency spokeswoman, said it was mandatory to wear protective masks in the area, but the rule was not being strictly enforced.

Estimates of the amount of red sludge still in storage at the plant in Ajka range between 20 million and 30 million metric tons.

In theory, the red sludge is put into a holding pond, where water evaporates and turns it into a hardpack that can be used for construction projects. In practice, that is not happening in Hungary — when one enormous waste pond gets full, another one is built.

“There is no recycling of the dried up red mud in Hungary, although some unsuccessful attempts were made in the past,” Gyorgy Banvolgyi, a senior engineer with nearly 40 years of experience in the aluminum industry, told the AP.

He said Hungary’s alumina producers have taken the position that “the red mud may be used for other purposes down the road, but as there is no profitable use for it so far, so for lack of a better alternative, they are storing it.”

Police — who on Wednesday had to release MAL Rt.’s managing director Zoltan Bakonyi after a judge ruled there was insufficient evidence against him — said Friday they had tried to question the plant’s technical director, Jozsef Deak, but he refused to testify.

Deak, who was released by authorities on Thursday, is suspected of public endangerment and causing damage to the environment, charges similar to those faced by Bakonyi before the court decision. □



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Mexican marine, three gunmen killed in shootout

MARK WALSH,
Associated Press Writer
MONTERREY, Mexico (AP) — Mexican marines battled suspected drug cartel gunmen whose allies erected at least a dozen roadblocks in the northeastern city of Monterrey, authorities said Friday. One marine and three gunmen were killed.

The gunmen opened fire and threw grenades at a marine patrol Thursday night on a highway on the western city limits, according to a Navy statement.

At the same time, gang members used buses and other vehicles to block at least a dozen main avenues in downtown Monterrey, said Alejandro Garza y Garza, the attorney general of Nuevo Leon state, where Mexico's third-largest city is located.

Such blockades have become a common cartel tactic across

northeastern Mexico to impede security forces from calling in reinforcements during shootouts. The region has become one of Mexico's most violent this year since a turf war broke out between the Gulf cartel and its former ally, the Zetas gang of hit men.

The Navy statement said it suspected the gunmen belonged to the Zetas.

Three marines were wounded, the Navy said. Two of the three gunmen who died perished when their car caught fire during the shootout. Marines seized three assault rifles, two handguns and ammunition after the gunfight.

The battle erupted just as Nuevo Leon state Gov. Rodrigo Medina was giving a speech at the Monterrey city hall on his first year in office.

"Many states, including ours, have been affected by the battles between criminal

groups and between those groups and the authorities," Medina told an audience that included federal Public Safety Secretary Genaro Garcia Luna. "This is a war that we did not start, that we did not bring to Nuevo Leon but that we must face."

Also Friday, Garza y Garza announced the arrest of two suspects in a grenade attack two weeks ago that injured 15 people at a plaza in Guadalupe, a town outside of Monterrey. Garza y Garza said a tip led to the capture of two men who have confessed to participating in the attack. He said the person who gave the tip would get a 225,000 peso (\$18,000) reward.

One of the men, a 21-year-old, said he was paid more than \$5,000 pesos (\$400) to accompany two other men to the plaza, Garza y Garza said. The man said they got out of



Forensic officers walk toward the crime scene after a shootout between unknown gunmen and soldiers on the outskirts of Monterrey, Mexico, late Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010. According to the local media, at least five gunmen and a soldier were killed during the shootout.

Associated Press

an SUV and one of the other men tossed the grenade.

The second suspect said he was asked to circle around the plaza twice in a separate car to ensure no police were around, Garza y Garza said.

Six children, the youngest 3 years old, were among those injured.

It remained unclear if the assailants were deliberately targeting innocent bystanders. Garza y Garza said investigators were unsure

of the motive but were searching for three other suspects who might provide answers, including the gang's ringleader.

He said police know which gang the assailants belong to but declined to name it to avoid undermining the investigation.

Garza y Garza previously has said the attack may have been the work of drug cartels trying to cause chaos in revenge for recent arrests. □

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Swiss celebrate digging world's longest tunnel

FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press Writer

SEDRUN, Switzerland (AP) — Workers hugged, cheered and set off fireworks as the huge drill broke through the last stretch of rock deep in the Swiss Alps. There was delight at the end of the tunnel — the world's longest — when it was completed Friday.

The \$10 billion, 35.4-mile tube will connect Europe's high-speed rail network and is part of a larger effort to cut in half the number of trucks — now at 1.2 million — that thunder through the Alps each year.

The joy and pride felt throughout Switzerland over digging the Gotthard Base Tunnel reflected the one cause that unites the country's wealthy city dwellers with those living in traditional villages: Protecting the beauty of the mountains.

"Together we risked a lot," said Swiss Transport Minister Moritz Leuenberger. "Together we achieved a lot." TV stations across Europe showed the event live. The embraces and cheers by the hard-hatted workers brought to mind the successful rescue of 33 trapped miners earlier this week in Chile.

Swiss voters approved the tunnel's construction in a series of referendums almost 20 years ago. Despite some criticism at the cost — almost \$1,300 for every citizen — the proposal passed by a wide margin.

Leuenberger, who is also in charge of environment issues,



Miners celebrate after the tunnel drilling machine "Sissi" broke through the last section of the Gotthard Base Tunnel near Sedrun in the canton of Grisons, Switzerland, Friday Oct. 15, 2010. With 35 mile the new St. Gotthard tunnel is the world's longest tunnel.

praised Swiss voters and took a swipe at neighboring Germany, where popular opposition threatens to halt the construction of new high-speed rail links and underground train stations.

"Today proves how sustainable, strong and efficient our direct democracy is," he told miners, VIPs and reporters amid the raucous underground celebrations.

His words were echoed by one of the 2,500 workers who toiled for more than a decade. Dieter Meyer, an electrician from Germany, expressed his awe that Switzerland — a country of just under 8 million people — had chosen to pursue such an ambitious project.

Meyer said Germans should

reconsider their opposition to new rail projects if they are serious about protecting the environment and halting climate change.

"This tunnel is the future," he told The Associated Press. "In Germany, the people in Stuttgart should really think about whether they want to protest against the new project."

Protesters in the southwest German city oppose plans to move Stuttgart's station underground, viewing the €4.1 billion (\$5.7 billion) project as a waste of money. Supporters say it will free up the city's packed center and help shorten journeys across Europe.

Peter Fueglistaler, director of the Swiss Federal Office of

Transport, insisted Friday that "our neighbors in Germany and Italy will have to fulfill their promise and provide high-speed rail links" that are meant to link the Dutch port of Rotterdam to its Mediterranean counterpart Genoa in Italy.

Already Switzerland transports some 62 percent of freight by rail — far more than any of its neighbors. Mindful that heavy goods traffic has contributed to the steady erosion harming fragile Alpine plants and animals — as well as cherished scenery — Switzerland has been tunneling through the Alps for decades.

The Gotthard Base Tunnel — first conceived in 1947 by engineer Eduard Gruner —

beats Japan's Seikan Tunnel, which is 33.5 miles.

Other tunnels, including the recently completed 21.5-mile Loetschberg Base Tunnel, complete an underground network that few other countries can rival.

"I hope that this tunnel will have lots of brothers in the Alps," Leuenberger said. His European colleagues, watching the ceremony live at a meeting in Luxembourg, will have recognized the reference to other projects in France, Italy and Austria still many years from completion. Switzerland's dependence on its neighbors to play their part in the plan for a cross-European high-speed rail network was mirrored Friday in the many different flags waved by workers in the newly carved hole under the mountains.

First among them was foreman Hubert Baer, an Austrian.

"This is the most wonderful moment in my 36 years of tunnel building," Baer said, surrounded by Italian, Portuguese and Turkish workers.

Many paid tribute to the eight men who died working in the tunnel over the years. Some also took time to congratulate their colleagues on the other side of the world in Chile, who rescued 33 men from a collapsed mine earlier this week. "That was fantastic for us, too," said Juergen Sandtner, another Austrian. "It was huge. That they managed to get them all out alive again was a great achievement." □



A man is escorted by Israeli police after being detained at Ben Gurion International airport near Tel Aviv, Israel, Friday, Oct. 15 2010.

Associated Press

Israeli police arrest suspect in NY murder

ARON HELLER

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli police on Friday arrested a U.S. citizen who flew to Israel after allegedly stabbing his parents to death in their New York home earlier this week.

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said police detained the man at Israel's Ben-Gurion International Airport while he was trying to buy a plane ticket. Police are questioning the suspect, who will remain in custody while Israel coordinates his extradition to the U.S.

The New York Police Department identified the man as Eric Bellucci of Staten Island, N.Y. His parents, Arthur and Marian, were found dead earlier this week.

Rosenfeld said police had been searching for

Bellucci for nearly 24 hours in coordination with the NYPD. Israeli TV footage showed police hauling an unshaven, woozy Bellucci from the airport into a van. His eyes were shut and he did not resist.

Bellucci is not an Israeli citizen, and it was unclear why he had traveled to Israel.

Liron Cohen, an airport check-in attendant, told Israel's Channel 10 the man "appeared unstable, spoke to himself and wasn't sure what he wanted" when he was at her counter.

He tried to buy a one-way ticket on a Turkish airline to Beijing via Istanbul, but his credit card was rejected, she said. When he offered to return with cash, she checked his passport, called her supervisors and security detained him, she said. □

Dutch prosecutors seek acquittal of anti-Islam pol

TOBY STERLING

Associated Press Writer

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Dutch prosecutors asked judges Friday to acquit anti-Islam politician Geert Wilders on all charges of inciting hate and discrimination against Muslims, in a case seen as testing the limits of free speech versus religious freedom.

The move by prosecutors signaled their belief the case against Wilders was weak, although judges could still disagree and convict him. The defense begins its case next week and a verdict is scheduled for next month. The case is being closely watched in many European countries, where immigration has created a backlash of anti-Muslim sentiment and boosted nationalist parties that are outspokenly negative toward Islam and Muslims. Muslims complained to Dutch authorities that Wilders crossed the line when, among many slurs, he

compared Islam to Naziism and the Quran to Hitler's manifesto, Mein Kampf. Prosecutors told the court that Wilders' statements may be "hurtful" or "insulting" to Muslims, but there was insufficient proof to convict him of trying to polarize Dutch society into antagonistic groups. He has never called for violence. Wilders, who had frowned throughout Friday's hearing, broke into a wide smile as the prosecutors concluded by running through the charges against him and asking for acquittal on each.

"I don't insult, I don't incite hate, I don't discriminate," he said outside the courtroom afterward. "The only thing I do, and will keep on doing, is speaking the truth."

In her summation, prosecutor Birgit van Roessel said Wilders' statements were made as part of the public debate "about the immigration and integration of nonwestern

foreigners, especially Muslims."

"Standpoints can vary considerably and emotions can run high, but ... it is a debate that it must be possible to have," she said. In one example cited by prosecutors, Wilders wrote in a 2007 opinion piece: "I've had enough of Islam in the Netherlands; let not one more Muslim immigrate," and urged that the Quran be banned.

The prosecutors said that statement, like others, was within the legal bounds of public debate.

Many of Wilders' statements seemed to denounce Islam as an ideology or its growing influence in the Netherlands, rather than being intended as an abuse of Muslims as a people or group, Van Roessel said.

Prosecutors had initially declined to press charges



Dutch anti-Islam politician Geert Wilders is seen inside the courtroom in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Friday, Oct. 15, 2010.

Associated Press

against Wilders at all, but were ordered to do so by an appeals court that ruled there was significant evidence against him.

Muslims, mostly from Morocco and Turkey, comprise about 6 percent of the Netherlands' 16.5 million population.

If convicted, he could be sentenced to up to a year in jail, though a fine is more likely.

A right-wing government that depends on Wilders' Freedom Party to reach a one-vote majority in parliament took office on

Thursday, making him one of the nation's most powerful politicians.

Although not a member of the ruling coalition, many of his election planks have been incorporated in the plans of the minority Cabinet. They include measures to turn away more asylum seekers, halve the number of new immigrants from nonwestern countries, ban the public wearing of face-concealing Muslim garb and force immigrants to pay for their own mandatory citizenship classes. □

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ORANJESTAD - The Cas di Glas fundraising happening, which took place earlier this month, has generated a whopping AWG. 168.870,-. The organizing team of the event is super happy with the amount, which has been donated by the entire population of Aruba in the hope of being able to buy a mobile breast cancer screening unit. Although the target has not been reached, the overall feeling afterward is wonderful:

“Aruba got together for this, they joined forces and made it a truly amazing, successful event,” said initiator Peter Ballière, who admits that the initial target amount of AWG. 450.000,-- had been set way too high for a first-time event like this. “Cas di Glas was a new concept for the island, but now Aruba knows what to expect next year.”

Asked how the Cas di Glas foundation is going to proceed, Peter Ballière explains that the donated money will be handed over to the Koningin Wilhelmina Kankerfonds (the cancer foundation of Aruba) and put into a special fund; various options how to proceed are being considered.



As soon as there are definite answers, an announcement will be made; the Cas di Glas organization is determined that a breast cancer screening unit will be coming to Aruba. A number of donations are

still pending, among them from one of the large service clubs, from Boolchands, Tommy Hilfiger and from De Suikertuin Restaurant. Calls from private persons who still wish to donate money are also still coming in, as well as significant amounts from sponsors in Holland and Belgium. “We hope that the Koningin Wilhelminafonds in the Netherlands will also help our cause,” said a hopeful Mr. Ballière, who wishes to thank deejays Siomara, DJ 101 and Jean Carlo for their fantastic effort during the four days that they were locked up inside their glass prison. “Their enthusiasm, their commitment and their professionalism were truly awesome and most inspiring,” he said. □

Welcome Back to Aruba



PALM BEACH -- Restaurant Manager Hubert Solagnier and his staff welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Martino, from NJ, back to Aruba for the 4th time!! Staying at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa the Martinos have been enjoying their time on the island and making new friends wherever they go. Pictured here Hubert and his guests, at Amazonia Churrascaria, famed Brazilian style Rodizio steakhouse on Palm Beach. □







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HUMAN HINTS

Finding Healthy Confidence

Confidence is an extremely powerful force. When you act with confidence, people tend to assume that you know what you're doing. Without it, you might come across as lost, weak, controllable.

We often encounter forces and situations that strip our confidence. Learning how to get it back is one of life's lessons, right before learning how to not lose it in the first place, no matter what life dishes out. Then we must learn how to carry confidence without arrogance.

Confidence can be strengthened by seeking spiritual meaning, by nurturing your self and others, and by taking action. It would also help if your nurturing contains a spiritual aspect, to help guide you in your search for higher meaning. Gaze up at

the stars and wonder at the meaning of it all. You will become more confident.

To find a course of action, follow your emotions. Pursue a cause that you feel passionate about. Does animal cruelty make you sick? Work against it. Domestic abuse or loss of a loved one hit close to home? How about mental illness? Work to help others out of situations that you know intimately.

When you act toward a higher purpose, your action is focused, well-defined and efficient. Helping others will empower your confidence, which will provide a powerful force behind your action.

Until Tomorrow...

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each day.


~**Quentin Danziger**

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received

a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete,




real-world techniques to consciously create any future you chose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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El Gaucho Gearing Up for the Holidays



ORANJESTAD – El Gaucho Argentine Grill made its holiday menu public this week, offering four different delicious menus ranging in price from \$33 to \$39, as well as an irresistible lunch menu, for as little as \$20 per

person. The famed Wilhelminastraat steakhouse is gearing up for a busy season, prepared to deliver stress-free celebrations featuring its signature cuisine, paired with traditional holiday foods, open bar options, a variety of hors d'oeuvres, even throwing in a live band at no charge for groups of a certain size.

The Christmas Menu, the Noel Menu, the Santa Menu and the Star Bright Menu promise to fulfill all expectations this holiday season, escorted by El Gaucho's warm and friendly hospitality.

Pictured here, images from the recent Penfolds Wines

dinner, hosted by Kris Shirley-Endean, director of sales for Banks Channel, who was enchanted with dining at El Gaucho when Romar Trading and wine artist Clive Faustin helped introduce the Australian wines. Established 1844, to an engaged local clientele, who also loved the old world charm of Graham's fine Ruby Port, as a special after-dinner drink, most suitable for holiday parties. □



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The game season start at fabulous Papillon Restaurant



PALM BEACH - Europeans love eating game. Pheasant, boar, hare and venison are considered the perks of fall, the season for the hunt.

Controlled hunting keeps the balance between the species and special permits are therefore sought-after in many countries.

The hunt used to be a royal sport where noblemen with packs of dogs and foot folk left their fairytale castles only to return to beautiful, graceful queens and princesses to present their trophies. The most impressive heads were mounted and glorious tales about hunting days were told and re-told.

Of course no one goes

hunting on Aruba. One won't see green-coated, feather-capped men with shotguns creeping through the countryside. The hunting season for us means that one is able, only for a limited time, to buy game. At Caribbean-French restaurant Papillon in The Village, the game season starts off with a bang. Weekly specials might include Wild Pigeon Breast, Duck, Deer, Hare Loin Fillet, Pheasant, Venison and Stew of Hare courtesy of chef Bas. The special feeling of autumn, crackling fires and roasting chestnuts must be conjured up in the mind, but the uninhibited enjoyment of eating traditional, exuberant game is just as good at



Papillon as in Europe.

The game season started on October 15 and it goes on until after Christmas. Game used to be traditionally served with bones and all, but the modern consumer is more geared towards fillets and steaks. The 'back to

nature' trend in eating points to enjoying game without heavy sauces and crazy side dishes; it wants you to savor the taste of the meat 'au naturel'. The traditional way of preparing game is an evergreen favorite as well. Papillon Restaurant

is planning a series of specials honoring the age-old European custom of eating game in the fall. For reservations, please call 586-5400. Papillon is located across from the Radisson Resort on the Hi-Rise strip. □



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Pairing award-winning cuisine and Scotland's most famous imports, at the Sunset Grille



Palm Beach — Brand Ambassador Arturo Savage entertained local dignitaries, hoteliers and retailers over fantastic dinner at the Sunset Grille Restaurant, Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, pairing a delicious four-course dinner with Grand Old Parr, Old Parr 15 years, Dimple Whiskey and Old Parr Superior.

Savage, a repeat visitor to the island reports that Old Parr is one of the world's most-popular brands, also much-appreciated in Aruba! This week, in collaboration with Romar Trading, he orchestrated the Whiskey Festival, with a number of successful events planned, including a perfect evening at the Sunset Grille, serving Trio of Campagnarde delicacies as appetizers starring Mousse of Foie Gras, Duck Rilette and Brushetta, laced with Whiskey aspic, over a bed

of baby greens with orange segment drizzled with Raspberry Vinaigrette. The second appetizer featured the Sunset Grille's signature Sea Bass recipe with creamy whole-grain-mustard sauce paired with Sundried Tomato and Olive Risotto, garnished with micro greens.

The main course accompanied by the 15 year old Dimple Whiskey featured Lamb Filet with sweet reduction sauce, oregano & grilled lemon, sweet potato

puree, caramelized onions and garlic beans.

For dessert a perfect Irish Crème Brulee with a touch of Chocolate Decadence accompanied the Old Parr Superior.

The elegant dinner was co-hosted by Mariuccia Amadeo and Patrick Figaroa of Romar Trading. At the end of the evening Savage offered a special toast in honor of the Sunset Grille restaurant team for the flawless and much-enjoyed dining experience. □



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-Madeleine L'Engle

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Celebrating 57 years of marriage

Joe & Jean Campisi renew their love



NOORD-On October 13, 2010 Joe and Jean Campisi of New Jersey renewed their love at sunset. Joe wanted to surprise his wife Jean with an anniversary she would never forget. The Campisi family made tickets to Aruba a few months back to enjoy a lovely family vacation. It has been two years that Joe & Jean have not returned to their home away from home due to Joe's health issues. During that time Joe got weaker and Dr. John Brown advised Joe to undergo open heart surgery. Joe thought it through and was worried that his family

vacation would be on hold. Dr Brown promised Joe that he would be back on his feet in no time. "I feel great, a new man, a healthy life and a wonderful woman who has been by my side for the past 57 years. I wanted to surprise her and thanks to my Aruba friends I did exactly that." The renewal took place at sunset, Jean had no idea as the plan was to have good friends Elenor and Raymond from Boston be the couple of the night. Jean was so excited to witness the celebration. The officiant, Reverend Robert Gibson was in on the surprise



and as the ceremony was to begin with the couple, Robert announced that there was a mistake and handed over the bouquet to Jean who was very surprised at how her husband pulled it off and all there friends who were in on the anniversary surprise. The beach renewal took place next to the Bunker Bar with family and friends alongside the crashing waves and picturesque sunset. Following the portraits by Bella Aruba Photography family and friends dined at the Petite Cafe, one of Joes favorites and the celebration continued. Joe and Jean are no strangers to Aruba with over 25 years returning to paradise. On there first vacation while relaxing by the pool Joe decided to make his red devil concoction and delivered drinks to the guests at the pool. After a few nights of his delicious red devil cocktail the guests started sharing snacks. Joe and the gang loved this get together and thus the 'Red Devils' was born. Every year the group got bigger which reached about 140 and Joe passed out shirts so that everyone was recognized.



Congratulations from Aruba happiness. Today and may you blessed with many more years of

Photos by Angela Munzenhofer



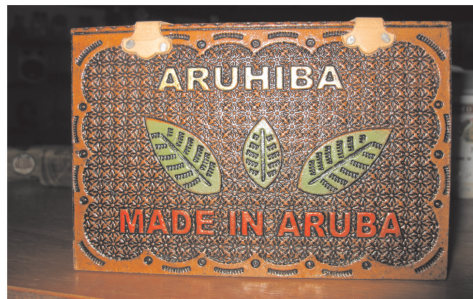
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five



cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open from Monday to Saturday from 9am till 8:30pm. And open on Sunday from 9am to 1pm. At the Tamarijn Hotel open on Monday till Saturday 12pm to 8pm. And on Sunday from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



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Mediate keeps lead at Frys.com

SAN MARTIN, Calif. — Rocco Mediate holed a 7-iron approach from 160 yards for eagle on the par-4 fourth hole and finished with a 6-under 65 on Friday to increase his lead to three strokes in the Frys.com Open.

The 46-year-old Mediate, looking for his first PGA Tour victory in eight years, made the eagle on the 426-yard hole a day after a hole-in-one on the par-3 third hole. He had a 13-under 129 total on the CordeValle Golf Club course in the Fall Series event. Ryudi Imada (67) was second, and Dean Wilson (64) and David Duval (65) followed at 9 under.

U.S. Ryder Cup player Rickie Fowler shot a 65 to join Tim Herron (67), Will MacKenzie (68), Henrik Stenson (67) and Bo Van Pelt (68) at 8 under.

Mediate had eagles in consecutive rounds for the first time since 2001.

"It is just weird," Mediate said. "A lot of stuff is happening. When that went in, I was 'Really?' I was pleased, but shocked."

Mediate, for years troubled by back problems, was slightly on edge because of his 7:20 a.m. tee time, concerned that he couldn't get loose in the cold.

"I was a little nervy to start because I was concerned the morning might be chilly," Mediate said. "I don't do well in the cold."

But it wasn't too bad. I hit a couple of putts and got some momentum."

Mediate birdied four of his first 12 holes before his eagle, which made up for a later bogey.

"That was my record by miles, 34 holes without a bogey," Mediate said.

Continued on Next Page

Liverpool sold to Red Sox owners

ROB HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Liverpool was sold to the owners of the Boston Red Sox on Friday after a bitter trans-Atlantic court fight over the storied English club with the previous American owners.

The 300 million pound (\$476 million) deal with New England Sports Ventures ends the turbulent three-year ownership by Tom Hicks and George Gillett Jr.

The sale finally went through after Hicks and Gillett withdrew the temporary restraining order blocking the sale they had obtained in a Texas court. But they vowed to pursue a claim for \$1.6 billion in damages.

The deal came on the day set as the deadline for repayment of the club's debts to the Royal Bank of Scotland and Wells Fargo, which have risen to around 285 million pounds.

Continued on Page B8



John Henry, left, the financier who heads New England Sports Ventures, owners of the Boston Red Sox, is watched by Liverpool's soccer club chairman Martin Broughton as he addresses the media at a lawyers office in London, Friday, Oct. 15, 2010. Liverpool was sold to the owners of the Boston Red Sox on Friday after a bitter trans-Atlantic court fight over the storied English club with the previous American owners. The 300 million pound (\$476 million) deal with New England Sports Ventures ends the turbulent three-year ownership by Tom Hicks and George Gillett Jr.

BIG BEN'S BACK



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger passes during his first practice back after a four-game suspension at the NFL football teams's practice facility in Pittsburgh, Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2010.

*Associated Press
See NFL Preview
Page B3*

Favre questionable for Sunday's game



In this Oct. 12, 2010, file photo, Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre (4) reacts on the sidelines during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game against the New York Jets in East Rutherford, N.J. The Jets won the game 29-20.

Associated Press

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — With an NFL-record streak of 289 regular-season starts on

the line, Brett Favre is listed as questionable for Minnesota's game Sunday against Dallas. Favre had only limited practice this week for the Vikings while trying to rest his ailing right elbow, which has been bothered by tendinitis. Coach Brad Childress said Friday he would give his quarterback the 50-50 designation on the injury report and that a final decision on Favre's status would be made before the Cowboys game. "It will be right up 'til then. You never know coming back. Of course he took a few more turns today. I can't look into a crystal ball and see how he wakes up tomorrow," Childress said. "He could wake up with the gout tomorrow morning," he jokingly added. □



Rocco Mediate makes a shot out of a bunker on the eleventh hole during the second round of the Frys.com Open at the CordeValle Golf Club on October 15, 2010 in San Martin, California.

Getty Images

FRYS.COM

Continued from Page B1

"I was so disappointed, but how could I be that angry? I wanted to go at least 36 holes. I actually tried to bogey the ninth hole too." Mediate said he took a putting lesson from Lee Trevino in May, and it has made a huge difference in his results. "I spent four or five hours with him and learned so

much about moving the ball to the right," Mediate said. "It was priceless. I didn't want to leave. Him and I are the same; we're nuts." Wilson said he took advantage of smoother greens, birdieing six of eight holes at one point, recovering nicely from an early bogey. "I think there is a lot of danger out there," Wilson said. "I need to drive the ball well, get it on the fairway.

The greens were nice and smooth in the morning, versus yesterday when they were a little bumpy." Duval said he played consistently well in the second round. "I wasn't real close to a bogey," he said. "I felt like I hit the ball pretty well. I had a few mistakes but I came here and have gotten into a rhythm so far." Fowler birdied four of his final five holes to move into the top five. "I drove the ball better," Fowler said. "Rocco set the pace and I needed to stay with the pace. I think I did that." Defending champion Troy Matteson missed the cut, following his opening 72 with a 76. The tournament, the third of five Fall Series events, is in its first year at CordeValle Golf Club after three seasons at Grawhawk in Scottsdale, Ariz. □



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Moss-less Patriots seek win in Ravens rematch

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Memories of being steamrolled by the Baltimore Ravens in the NFL playoffs last January are motivating the New England Patriots for their rematch on Sunday.

That 33-14 loss was the Patriots' worst in the playoffs since Bill Belichick became coach in 2000.

"It still weighs on us," linebacker Jerod Mayo said. "It was a very disappointing loss. It ended our season and they're coming back to New England. Hopefully, it's not the same outcome."

The Ravens return to Gillette Stadium with an improved offense and the best record in the league at 4-1. Their defense is just as fierce and formidable as ever, having allowed the fourth fewest points per game and the third fewest total yards.

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady has a chance to surpass John Elway for second-most consecutive regular-season wins at home with 23 — Brett Favre set the mark with 25 for Green Bay — but he knows a win over the Ravens will have to be well-earned.

"They do try to cause some confusion," Brady said. "Sometimes you're snapping the ball not quite sure if you have everything picked up, but you have to do the best you can do against a defense like this. I think that's why they're one of the best defenses in the

league."

New England will play its first game without star receiver Randy Moss, who was traded to Minnesota just before the Patriots had their bye. They brought back Deion Branch, the 2005 Super Bowl MVP, in a deal with Seattle.

The Patriots' offense will need to keep up with the Ravens' balanced unit that has become particularly dangerous through the air with the addition of standout receiver Anquan Boldin.

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger finally returns to action against the Cleveland Browns following his four-game suspension for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy. The Steelers impressively won three of their four games in Roethlisberger's absence, buoyed by a defense reminiscent of the vintage Steel Curtain of the 1970s and a strong running game. The big question is how much, if at all, they open up the offense with Roethlisberger behind center?

The Browns, against whom Roethlisberger played his last regular season game on Jan. 3, aren't likely to open up anything with the ball if quarterback Colt McCoy has to make his NFL debut. The Atlanta Falcons, the best team in the NFC, visit the Philadelphia Eagles having discovered a defense to go with a balanced attack centered on running back



In this Sept. 26, 2010, file photo, New England Patriots wide receiver Randy Moss (81) and quarterback Tom Brady (12) look on during an NFL football game against the Buffalo Bills in Foxborough, Mass. The Patriots traded the seven-time Pro Bowl receiver on Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2010, giving Moss the exit he expected all along and sending him back to the place where he became a superstar.

Associated Press

Michael Turner and wide receiver Roddy White, who leads the conference with 37 receptions and was second in yards (463).

Philadelphia, despite its revolving door at quarterback, has conceded only one interception. But whether Kevin Kolb or Michael Vick is doing the throwing, the Eagles need a spark at home, where they are 0-2.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers, at 3-1, can make a real statement about their continuing development with a home win over the New Orleans Saints.

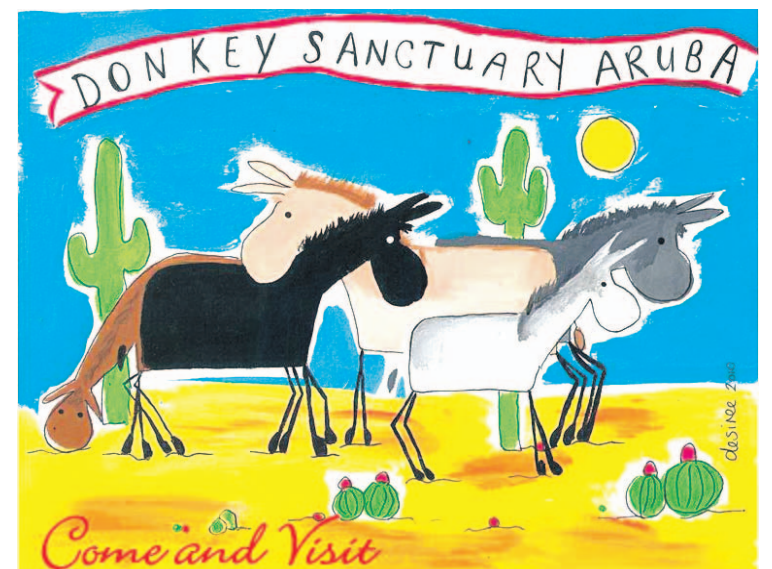
Is New Orleans in the midst of a Super Bowl hangover? The defense is somewhat improved, but the once-

potent offense isn't making big plays like it did in 2009. And the Saints can't run the ball with Pierre Thomas and Reggie Bush injured.

Elsewhere on Sunday, it's Dallas at Minnesota; Kansas City at Houston; Miami at Green Bay; Indianapolis at Washington; the New York

Jets at Denver; Seattle at Chicago; Oakland at San Francisco; Detroit at the New York Giants; and San Diego at St. Louis.

Monday's game has Tennessee at Jacksonville. Off this week are Buffalo, Cincinnati, Arizona and Carolina. □



NHL Roundup

Stars beat Red Wings 4-1 in Modano's return



Detroit Red Wings goalie Chris Osgood (30) plays the puck out of position against Dallas Stars' Loui Eriksson (21) during the third period of the hockey game in Dallas, Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010. The Stars won 4-1.

Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Stars beat the Detroit Red Wings 4-1 in the NHL on Thursday as Stars career scoring leader Mike Modano made his first appearance in Texas as a visiting player. In 20 seasons as the face of the Stars franchise, Modano had 557 goals and 1,359 points, most by a U.S.-born player in NHL history. The 40-year-old was not offered a contract in the off-season, so he signed a one-year deal with the Red Wings, his hometown team.

The Stars' top line of Brad Richards, Loui Eriksson and James Neal had goals and Kari Lehtonen made 25 saves.

Brenden Morrow added his fourth goal in three games, and Richards and Mike Ribeiro had two assists each for the Stars in their home opener.

Niklas Kronwall scored for Detroit in the third period.

Lightning 3, Flyers 2

In Philadelphia, Simon Gagne made his emotional return to Philadelphia as Tampa Bay beat the Flyers. Gagne, a playoff hero last season in the Flyers' run to the Stanley Cup finals, spent the first 10 seasons of his career with Philadelphia before being dealt to Tampa

Bay during the summer to clear salary cap space.

Steven Stamkos, Dominic Moore and Pavol Kubina scored for the Lightning. Nikolay Zherdev and Danny Briere scored for Philadelphia.

Predators 4, Blues 3

In Nashville, Tennessee, Nashville improved to a 3-0 start for only the second time in franchise history by beating St. Louis.

Steve Sullivan scored twice, while Marcel Goc and Patric Hornqvist also scored for the Predators.

Dating to last season, the Predators have beaten the Blues five consecutive times.

Wild 4, Oilers 2

In St. Paul, Minnesota, Mikko Koivu scored two of Minnesota's four power-play goals as the Wild beat Edmonton at home for the 14th straight time.

Antti Miettinen and Matt Cullen each had a goal and an assist for Minnesota, which tied the longest current home winning streak against a team. Nashville has beaten Columbus 14 straight times in Tennessee. Minnesota has now won nine straight home openers. Dustin Penner and Minnesota native Tom Gilbert scored

for Edmonton.

Senators 3, Hurricanes 2

In Ottawa, the hosts notched their first win of the season after three defeats by downing Carolina.

Mike Fisher scored his second goal of the game on a power play 14:03 into the third for what proved the winner.

Carolina had scored goals 1:39 apart earlier in the period to tie it 2-2.

Milan Michalek also scored for the Senators. Carolina captain Eric Staal assisted on Sergei Samsonov's goal in the third before drawing the Hurricanes even with his first of the season.

In Calgary, Radek Dvorak scored twice in a 3:05 span of the first period to set up Florida's win over Calgary.

Fellow Czech star Tomas Vokoun made 27 saves for his 39th career shutout.

Shawn Matthias added a goal midway through the third period for Florida, which opened the season with one-goal losses in Edmonton and Vancouver.

In other NHL games it was Tampa Bay 3, Philadelphia 2; Ottawa 3, Carolina 2; Nashville 4, St. Louis 3; Minnesota 4, Edmonton 2; Dallas 4, Detroit 1; and Florida 3, Calgary 0. □



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Doc and the Freak: opposites with similar success

By **ROB MAADDI**

AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Roy Halladay and Tim Lincecum have little in common except performance on the mound.

Nicknamed the Freak, Lincecum is a shaggy-haired, skinny kid who looks more like a bat boy than one of the best pitchers in the majors. Known as Doc, the bearded Halladay is bigger, stronger and can probably pass for a professor.

Lincecum is quirky. He has an unorthodox delivery, doesn't ice his arm, and munches on treats like Philly cheesesteaks or ice cream before starts.

Halladay is robotic. He has perfect mechanics, a tireless work ethic and doesn't let anything prevent him from following his routine.

Who's the better pitcher?

They'll showcase their stuff when the San Francisco Giants play the two-time NL champion Philadelphia Phillies in Game 1 of the league championship series on Saturday night at Citizens Bank Park.

"It's going to be a tremendous matchup," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said Friday. "You have two of the best pitchers in the game. We have all the respect for Halladay. Tremendous command in the strike zone, great stuff, great competitor. And, we have a good one going, too."

Two different styles. Their guy's probably a little bit more conventional than Tim with his unique delivery. But when it comes down to it, he's in the same position. They have four-plus pitches they can throw at any time with good command."

Both pitchers were sensational in their postseason debuts last week.

Halladay threw the second no-hitter in postseason history in Philadelphia's 4-0 victory over Cincinnati. A day later, Lincecum tossed a two-hitter with 14 strikeouts in San Francisco's 1-0 win over Atlanta.

Neither guy expects an encore. It doesn't mean they're not trying.

"That's the beauty of it. I don't look at it as pressure. I look at it as a challenge," Halladay said. "Getting to this point, you put in so much work to get here that once you do, it's been nothing but excitement. And you don't feel like there's a certain standard you have to live up to. I feel like I need to go out and pitch the way that I normally pitch, execute pitches and be aggressive. It's been nothing but a challenge and something I look forward to. I just haven't felt the pressure of having to live up to something or do something."

Lincecum certainly won't be overwhelmed by the spotlight.

"You get a taste of what it's like to play in postseason ball. I think it can't do anything but help me," he said about his success in his first start. "I feel like the All-Star game last year helped me prepare for the postseason scenario, just with the heightened atmosphere

and how crazy it gets. But my approach on this game is the same as any other start Obviously, it's a big game. But I don't want to get too overamped. I want to take it just like any other start."

Halladay lived up to enormous expectations in his first season in Philadelphia after 12 years with Toronto. The 33-year-old right-hander finished 21-10 with a 2.44 ERA. He tied CC Sabathia for most wins and led the majors in complete games (nine), shutouts (four) and innings (250 2-3).

Halladay threw a perfect game in May, made his seventh All-Star game and is the leading candidate to win his second Cy Young Award. While Lincecum is freakish in that he doesn't follow standard practices, Halladay goes overboard. He's legendary for his workout routine that starts at 5:30 a.m. EDT.

"There's never a guarantee of whether a guy's going to be good or not, or how good he can be," Halladay said. "It just kind of happens. I think there's a lot of internal makeup that's involved. But it's a great part about this game. You don't have to be 6-9 and 280 pounds to be a defensive lineman. You can take all different shapes and sizes and do the job. So that's what makes it fun."

Cole Hamels, the 2008 World Series MVP, said he tried working out with Halladay once in spring training. He didn't make it back for another day.

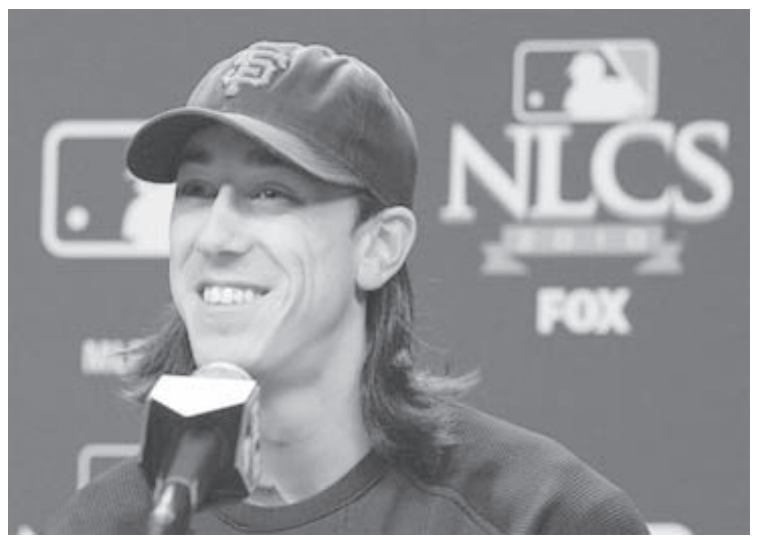
"It's insanity. I have a newborn. I needed every minute of sleep I can get it," Hamels said.

"He gets there at 5:30. That means he's up at 4:30. That's the personality he has and he's had success with it."

Even after throwing a no-hitter, Halladay didn't take a break from his normal day. He turned down an invitation to David Letterman's "Late Show" and other media appearances.

"As far as who he is and how he goes about things and what makes him good, those are the things that I feel like I've learned about him," Phillies manager Charlie Manuel said. "And the things that I think are better than what I really imagined was definitely his command and his routine. It's so regimented, He's so focused and everything."

Lincecum, the reigning two-time Cy Young Award winner, had an up-and-down year after emerging as the most dominant pitcher in the league in his first two full seasons. The 26-year-old righty rebounded in September after a career-worst five-start losing streak in August, and finished 16-10 with a 3.43 ERA. The Halladay-Lincecum matchup is the marquee pitching duel in a series that features a handful of aces. San Francisco flip-flopped its Nos. 2 and 3 starters, and will send Jonathan Sanchez against three-time All-Star Roy Oswalt in Game 2. Matt Cain faces Hamels when the series shifts to AT&T Park on Tuesday. □



ABOVE: San Francisco Giants starting pitcher Tim Lincecum addresses the media during a news conference before a workout Friday, Oct. 15, 2010, in Philadelphia. **BELOW:** Philadelphia Phillies starting pitcher Roy Halladay smiles during a news conference Friday, Oct. 15, 2010, in Philadelphia. The Phillies play the San Francisco Giants in Game 1 of baseball's National League Championship Series Saturday.

Associated Press

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ATP may shorten tour by 2-3 weeks from 2012



American Andy Roddick looks at his bandaged thigh after receiving medical treatment during his round two match against Guillermo Garcia Lopez of Spain in the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament in Shanghai Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010. Roddick retired the match due to the injury.

Associated Press

SHANGHAI (AP) — The ATP Tour may shorten its 11-month season by two or three weeks from 2012 to give players more rest and help them avoid injuries and burnout.

“We are taking a good, hard look at our calendar to see if there is a meaningful way to lengthen the offseason that would allow players more time for rest, fitness and working on their game,” spokeswoman Kate Gordon said on Friday.

The ATP board of directors will meet during the ATP Tour World Finals in London next month to vote on schedules for the 2012 and 2013 seasons. Some of the proposals being considered would shorten the calendar by two or three weeks.

“The issue of season length has been around for a long time and there is no quick fix, but we are committed to giving it real consideration,” Gordon said.

The top players have advocated for a shorter tournament calendar for years. Rafael Nadal, who admitted to being tired this week after playing three tournaments in a row and 16 overall this year, has suggested allowing the top players to stop playing after the final top-tier Masters events in the autumn and forgo late-season smaller tournaments without having to worry about giving up ranking points.

“The perfect schedule is if you have the chance to play and you have the chance not to play,” he said at the Shanghai Masters this week.

Andy Roddick, too, has wanted longer off-seasons for players.

“I’ve been pretty upfront with saying I think (the schedule) is too long,” he said in Shanghai. “I think luckily our voices seem to be getting to the point where they’re being heard.”

Roger Federer, playing his 14th event of the year in Shanghai, also supported

a shorter tour, but realized the top players were in a better position to pick and choose their tournaments than others who were chasing money and higher rankings.

“It’s a smart idea to cut the calendar short without hurting too many tournaments, and I hope that we can reach a good agreement there,” he said.

“I don’t remember the year finishing so late ever. But it’s what it is. I think if the season is long, you have more breaks in the season than you do normally, if you’re smart about it. If you ran after points and tournaments, it’s normal that the season becomes endless.

“I can live with either one. I think if you’re injured for a period of time, you can get some points down the stretch and your ranking is not going to drop like a stone.” □



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Federer, Djokovic, Murray roll into Shanghai semis

SHANGHAI (AP) — Roger Federer routed No. 5-ranked Robin Soderling 6-1, 6-1 in the Shanghai Masters quarterfinals on Friday.

Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray also cruised into the semifinals, while unseeded Juan Monaco of Argentina took nearly three hours to oust Jurgen Melzer of Austria, who beat top-ranked Rafael Nadal on Thursday.

Federer and Djokovic will meet on Saturday for the 17th time, and the first since their stunning U.S. Open semifinal when Djokovic saved two match points in a five-set victory. Soderling's 14th loss in 15 matches against Federer was his worst yet, and it was his heaviest defeat overall since April 2009 when the Swede took only one game off Nadal at the Rome Masters.

Federer, who barely missed on Friday, punctuated his 54-minute performance with a Pete Sampras-like jumping smash after Soderling tried to flick a lob over him.

"He didn't have his best

day," Federer said. "(What's) important then is to take advantage of it and just be able to close him out because you would figure a top-five player like Robin finds a way at some stage during the match to crawl back."

No. 2-ranked Djokovic beat the in-form Guillermo Garcia-Lopez 6-2, 6-3. The Serb broke early in both sets and fought off two of the three break points he faced.

Garcia-Lopez beat Spanish compatriot Rafael Nadal two weeks ago on his way to capturing the Thailand Open title and had won 10 of his last 11 matches, including against seventh-ranked Tomas Berdych in the third round.

"Garcia-Lopez has been playing some good tennis in the last couple of weeks," Djokovic said. "He hits the ball really well from the baseline. He made me work for the points. Even though it looked comfortable I had to really be aware of the speed of the ball that was coming from the other side of the net."



Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates after defeating Guillermo Garcia-Lopez of Spain in the men's singles quarterfinal match of the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament in Shanghai, China, Friday Oct. 15, 2010. Djokovic won 6-2, 6-3.

Djokovic rested briefly after the hour-long match before returning to the court to play doubles, which he lost. He's playing doubles to prepare for the Davis Cup final against France in December.

No. 4 Murray handled an error-prone Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-2, 6-2 in 55 minutes. The Scot dominated his opponent with a combination of big serves and delicate drop shots — with the exception

of one from the baseline that bounced well before reaching the net. He broke the 12th-seeded Frenchman four times and only lost eight points on his serve.

"He's a really good front-runner, but he struggled a little bit on his serve," Murray said. "From my side, I served well and didn't give him any chances on my serve. I was hitting the ball really cleanly from the back of the court, so it was a good start."

Tsonga, who recently returned to the tour after a three-month injury layoff, struggled to keep the ball in play, making 21 unforced errors and five double faults. He's lost seven of his last eight matches against top 10 players.

Murray, who only last week rebounded from an illness that had dogged him since the U.S. Open, will face Monaco, who outlasted Melzer 6-7 (6), 7-5, 6-2 a week after losing to the Austrian in Tokyo.

Melzer was almost flawless in upsetting Nadal, but against Monaco he hit 57 unforced errors and dropped serve seven times.

Monaco was through to his first semifinals since February. After the French Open, he was off for three months with a left wrist injury and ended a five-match losing streak on tour this week. □

Associated Press



In this Feb. 19, 2009 file photo, Italian Olympic Committee's anti-doping prosecutor Ettore Torri gestures during a press conference at the Olympic Committee's headquarters at Rome's Olympic stadium. After four years as the Italian Olympic Committee's anti-doping prosecutor, Torri is convinced that all pro cyclists are doping. In his first interview in two years, he told The Associated Press it's not just a personal hunch anymore: "I'm not the only one saying it. Lately, all of the cyclists I've interrogated have said that everyone dopes."

Associated Press

Cyclists contemplate protest at Giro di Lombardia

MILAN (AP) — The last major race of the cycling season could start with a protest, with riders contemplating a 10-minute delay at Saturday's Giro di Lombardia after Italy's anti-doping prosecutor suggested all cyclists use drugs.

Defending champion Philippe Gilbert told the Gazzetta dello Sport that fellow cyclist Roman Kreuziger recently phoned him to discuss a possible protest.

Gilbert said a protest would be "a way to show that cycling is not synonymous with doping, rather that it's actually cleaner than a lot of other (sports), and definitely the sport that has fought against doping the most."

Race organizer RCS Sport has also organized a symposium on "the ethics of cycling," in conjunction with the single-day classic.

In his first interview in two years, prosecutor Ettore Torri told The Associated Press last week that legalizing doping would be a possible solution if that didn't harm the health of cyclists.

He said anti-doping authorities prosecute only a small percentage of offenders.

Torri's comments came following four years of doping cases against prominent cyclists like Ivan Basso, Danilo Di Luca, Alessandro Petacchi and Riccardo Ricco — and a week

after Tour de France winner Alberto Contador was reported to have tested positive.

In the interview, Torri also pointed out that when a test is developed to find a new substance, that doesn't eliminate the drug's use among dopers.

"There are always ways to use micro dosages that are not discovered in tests," Torri said. "These trainers are really good at their jobs and they're able to prescribe just enough of the drug that it remains under the banned levels." Not everyone supports a protest.

"While I disagree with Torri's statements, STRONGLY, I don't understand how delaying a race counters his incorrect information?" Garmin-Transitions chief executive Jonathan Vaughters tweeted.

Vaughters, a former teammate of Lance Armstrong, added that he didn't think anyone from his team had been informed of the protest.

Gilbert won Thursday's warmup race, the Gran Piemonte, and is favored for another win in the Lombardia. His top challengers are 2009 world champion Cadel Evans, Frank Schleck and recent Spanish Vuelta winner Vincenzo Nibali.

The hilly race begins in Milan and follows a 162-mile route to the finish in Como. □

Date Krumm upsets Stosur to reach Osaka semifinals



Kimiko Date Krumm of Japan celebrates her win over Samantha Stosur of Australia in their women's singles quarter-final match at the Japan Women's Open tennis tournament in Osaka on October 15, 2010. Date Krumm beat Stosur 5-7, 6-3, 7-6.

Getty Images

OSAKA, Japan – Kimiko Date Krumm became the first player over 40 to beat a top-10 player on the WTA Tour, upsetting Samantha Stosur 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (4) Friday in the Japan Women's Open quarterfinals.

Date Krumm, who turned 40 on Sept. 28, missed a match point against the eighth-ranked Australian at 5-4 in the third set, but converted her second in the tiebreaker.

Stosur, the defending champion, converted only 2 of 12 break chances against her 56th-ranked opponent.

The Japanese star became the oldest to defeat a top-10 player in May when she topped then-No.

9 Dinara Safina at the French Open. That win, and the latest over Stosur, are Date Krumm's only wins over top-10 opponents since she ended a 12-year retirement in April 2008.

In the semifinals, she'll meet third-seeded Shahar Peer of Israel.

Peer cruised past seventh-seeded Iveta Benesova of the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-0 in 54 minutes.

Second-seeded Marion Bartoli of France coasted to a 6-1, 6-2 win over Jill Craybas of the United States. Bartoli will face another unseeded player, Tamarine Tanasugarn, who defeated Chang Kai-chen 6-3, 2-6, 6-4. □

Schnyder downs 2nd-seeded Hantuchova to reach semifinals at Generali Ladies

Associated Press

LINZ, Austria - Patty Schnyder beat second-seeded Daniela Hantuchova 6-4, 6-4 Friday to advance to her third semifinal of the season at the Generali Ladies.

Schnyder, who also reached the semis in Budapest and Prague in July, plays Germany's Andrea Petkovic for a place in Sunday's final.

In the other semifinal, seventh-seeded Ana Ivanovic, who defeated Julia Goerges of Germany 7-6 (6), 6-2 will take on Roberta Vinci, who rallied to beat fellow Italian Sara Errani 5-7, 6-3, 6-4.

Ivanovic, who won the event in 2008, squandered a 5-2 lead and had to save a set point in the tiebreaker before finally taking the opening set. □



The financier who heads New England Sports Ventures, owners of Boston's Baseball Club Boston Red Sox, John Henry arrives at a lawyer's office in London, Friday, Oct. 15, 2010, where Liverpool FC's club directors are meeting. Liverpool's owners Tom Hicks and George Gillett Jr are withdrawing their Texas court order blocking the sale of the club but could still find a way to stop the proposed 300 million pound (\$476 million) takeover by NESV.

Associated Press

LIVERPOOL

Continued from Page B1

"We are committed first and foremost to winning," said John Henry, the financier who heads NESV. "We have a history of winning, and today we want LFC supporters to know that this approach is what we intend to bring to this great club."

Amid the takeover turmoil, Liverpool is mired in the

relegation zone after its worst start to a league season since 1953.

"As every Liverpool fan knows, the most nerve-racking way to win a match is by a penalty shootout," club chairman Martin Broughton said. "But in the end, as long as you get the right result, it's worth the wait. We've got the right result."

Broughton said the deal

"comprehensively resolves the pressing issue of the club's debt and should give staff, players and fans great confidence regarding the future of Liverpool FC."

Liverpool went to the High Court in London twice this week to win approval for the sale over the objections of Hicks and Gillett, who claim the price undervalues the 18-time English champions.

"It's been pretty stressful but we've been confident all the way through that we'd get there," Broughton said outside the London law offices where the deal was signed.

Broughton said he would stay on as chairman in a transitional role, while Henry decides how he wants to run the club.

Henry reached out to Liverpool fans in a bid to break with the deeply unpopular Hicks and Gillett.

"We're not going to have a lot to say," he said. "We are going to do a lot of listening. We have a lot to learn. Our actions will hopefully speak for words."

Henry said it was too early to decide on specific plans, but noted the Red Sox are the second-highest spending club in baseball. Liverpool,

under manager Roy Hodgson, is hoping to sign new players in the next transfer period in January.

"We are here to win," Henry said.

Henry wouldn't say whether NESV would build a new stadium for Liverpool or refurbish its existing Anfield ground.

Liverpool plays cross-city rival Everton on Sunday at Goodison Park. Henry indicated he won't attend that away game, saying, "I think it's better for our first experience with the supporters to be at home."

Liverpool's next home game is against Blackburn on Oct. 24.

NESV was represented in the deal by Inner Circle Sports, a New York-based financial company.

Hicks and Gillett claimed the takeover was "illegal" and an "extraordinary swindle."

Hicks said Royal Bank of Scotland refused to allow him to repay Liverpool's debts to prevent the sale.

"This was a conspiracy of the British Establishment — Royal Bank of Scotland — our chairman (Broughton) and our highly compensated

employees," Hicks told The Associated Press.

RBS was partly nationalized in 2008, with the British government taking an 84 percent stake after it was brought to the brink of collapse by the global economic crisis.

"This outcome not only devalues the club but it also will result in long-term uncertainty for the fans, players and everyone who loves this sport because all legal recourses will be pursued," said Steve Stodghill, the Texas attorney representing Hicks and Gillett. "Mr. Hicks and Mr. Gillett pledged to pay the debt to RBS so that the Club could avoid administration that was threatened by RBS. That offer was rejected."

"It is a tragic development that others will claim as a victory. This means it won't be resolved the way it should be resolved. My clients worked tirelessly to resolve these issues but RBS would not listen to any reasonable solution and the directors acted selfishly and illegally."

The statement said Hicks and Gillett would apply "all of their legal energies" toward securing \$1.6 billion in damages. □



Disfiguring tropical disease surges in Afghanistan

By **ROBERT KENNEDY**,
Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan — An outbreak of a tropical disease caused by sand fly bites that leaves disfiguring skin sores has hit Afghanistan, with tens of thousands of people infected, health officials said Friday.

Cutaneous leishmaniasis is a parasitic disease transmitted by the female phlebotomine sand fly — an insect only 2-3 millimeters long that requires the blood of humans or animals so its eggs can develop. Treatable with medication and not life-threatening, cutaneous leishmaniasis can leave severe scars on the bodies of victims. The disease threatens 13 million people in Afghanistan, the World Health Organization said, and many impoverished Afghan victims can't afford the medication to treat it.

In Kabul — described by the

WHO as “the world capital of cutaneous leishmaniasis” — the number of cases jumped from an estimated 17,000 a year in the early 2000s to 65,000 in 2009, WHO said.

Most victims are women and children. WHO said women and children are more vulnerable because they mostly live indoors at night, where the sand flies prefer to bite, and are therefore more susceptible than men who are generally outside the home.

Peter Graaff, WHO representative to Afghanistan, told The Associated Press on Friday that the stigma and shame attached to the disfiguring disease results in underreporting, and the number of infected people is likely much higher.

“This number is likely to be the tip of the iceberg as cases are grossly underreported,” said Graaff.

An outbreak has occurred in a small village in western Herat province's Kohsan district with 63 people infected since August, Graaff said.

The cause of the outbreak was unknown and a WHO team has been dispatched to investigate, he said.

The sand flies proliferate from June to September. They thrive in unsanitary conditions such as piles of garbage and debris, though bed nets offer protection from their bites. As the disfiguring sores grow larger, many suffer social stigmatization.

“The high cost of treatment makes it difficult to integrate anti-Leishmaniasis drugs,” said Dr. Suraya Dalil, acting minister of public health. “I urge donors to take this cause seriously, as it causes unnecessary suffering amongst a large number of Afghans.”



In this photo taken in April, 2010, and released by the World Health Organization Friday, Oct. 15, 2010, a baby victim suffering from cutaneous leishmaniasis, a parasitic disease transmitted by the female phlebotomine sand fly that causes disfiguring skin sores, sits with scars before being treated at the Kabul national malaria and leishmaniasis clinic in Kabul, Afghanistan. An outbreak of a tropical disease caused by sand fly bites that leaves disfiguring skin sores has hit Afghanistan, with tens of thousands of people infected, health officials said Friday, Oct. 15, 2010.

(AP Photo/World Health Organization)

According to the WHO as the disease, with about 1 many as 12 million people million to 2 million new cases are infected worldwide with annually. □

Walking 6 to 9 Miles a Week May Help Save Memory

By Alan Mozes

Walking about six miles a week appears to protect against brain shrinkage in old age, which in turn helps stem the onset of memory problems and cognitive decline, new research reveals.

“We have always been in search of the drug or the magic pill to help treat brain disorders,” noted Kirk I. Erickson, an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Pittsburgh and the study's lead author. “But really what we are after may be, at least partially, even simpler than that. Just by walking regularly, and so maintaining a little bit of moderate physical activity, you can reduce your likelihood of developing Alzheimer's disease and [can] spare brain tissue.”

A report on the research, which was supported by the U.S. National Institute on Aging, is published online Oct. 13 in *Neurology*.

Erickson and his colleagues began tracking the physical activity and cognitive (or thinking) patterns of nearly 300 adults in 1989. At the start, all participants were in good cognitive health, they averaged 78 years old and about two-thirds were women. The researchers charted how many blocks each person walked in a week.

Nine years later, they were given a high-resolution MRI scan to measure brain size. All were deemed to be “cognitively normal.”

But four years after that, testing showed that a little more than one-third of the participants had developed mild cognitive impairment or dementia.

By correlating cognitive health, brain scans and walking patterns, the research team found that being more physically active appeared to marginally lower the risk for developing cognitive impairment.

But more specifically, they concluded that the more someone walks, the more gray matter tissue the person will have a decade or more down the road in regions of the brain -- namely the hippocampus, the inferior frontal gyrus and the supplementary motor area -- that are central to cognition.

And among the more physically active participants who had retained more gray matter a decade out, the chances of developing cognitive impairment were cut in half, the study found.

However, the researchers stressed that the relationship between walking and gray matter volume appears to apply only to people who regularly walk relatively long distances that equal about six to nine miles a week. Walking more than the six- to nine-mile range, however, did not have cognitive benefit, the study found.

“That's because the size of our brain regions can only be so large,” Erickson said, adding that the opposite isn't true. “So with no exercise, there can be significant deterioration and decay with age.”

However, he added, “what we often tend to think of as an inevitable component or characteristic of aging -- memory decline and brain decay -- is clearly not inevitable. There's plenty of evidence now, and this study is part of that, that shows that we can retain our brain tissue and retain our memories well into late adulthood by maintaining an active and engaged lifestyle.”

Dr. Steven V. Pacia, chief of neurology at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City, described the study's finding as both “intriguing” and an “undoubtedly positive message to send to the public.”

“My first reaction to studies like this is that only in America do we have to prove to people that it's good to walk,” he said with a chuckle.

“But it stands to reason that being active as we age is going to have a beneficial effect on the brain, just as being inactive is going to have a negative impact,” Pacia noted. “Because the brain lives in the environment of the body.”

But there may be a catch. “This is just an observational study,” Pacia noted. “And while we may assume that the relationship between the brain and activity is a prevention-of-atrophy issue -- just like it is with muscle and bone -- this study doesn't actually prove that. We don't yet know enough about the use-it-or-lose-it notion with respect to brain and exercise. So we do need more research to look at that.” □



US actress Angelina Jolie walks in a scene during the shooting of her directorial debut, a film called 'Untitled Bosnian War Love Story' in Budapest, Hungary, Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010. The movie, about a young Serb and a Muslim woman who fall in love just before beginning of the Bosnian war, is due to be released in 2011.

(AP Photo/MTI, Bea Kallos)

Jolie questions decision to deny her film permit

By AIDA CERKEZ,

Associated Press Writer

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Angelina Jolie has questioned Bosnia's decision to withdraw her film permit, saying Friday it was based on false rumors that her movie will be a love story about a Bosniak woman and a Serb man who raped her during the country's war. But the actress, and two members of her film crew in Sarajevo, declined to say what the plot of her directorial debut will be, and that could make it difficult to allay the concerns of the movie's main opponents: Bosnia's wartime rape victims.

Jolie said in a written statement Friday that it will be a shame if "unfair pressure based on wrong information" prevents her crew from shooting her film in Bosnia. "It's working title is 'Untitled Love Story.'" She offered to meet with wartime rape victims in Bosnia and to clarify misunderstandings that led Sarajevo's culture minister, Gavril Grahovac, to deny the permit.

"My hope is that people will hold judgment until they have seen the film," Jolie said.

The movie was supposed to be shot partly in Bosnia in November, but Grahovac revoked the permit this week under pressure from the Association of Women, Victims of War, which

represents the several thousand mainly Muslim Bosniak women who were raped during Bosnia's 1992-95 war.

Grahovac was not available for comment Friday.

Sarajevan Fedja Stukan, who plans to act in the movie, defended Jolie's project, telling Bosnian media that "we are not making a movie about a crazy woman falling in love with her rapist. We are not sick and perverted."

Jolie's Sarajevo producer, Edin Sarkic, told The Associated Press on Friday that the rumor about the rape victim falling in love with a rapist is "insane." But he also said his contract with Jolie prevents him from disclosing details about the script.

Instead, Sarkic said, he resubmitted the movie permit application to Grahovac on Wednesday, along with a full script, and expects the minister to grant a new permit. Bakira Hasecic, the leader of the Association of Women, Victims of War, told the AP that she has not read the script, but said: "From what I heard, it is about a victim in a rape camp falling in love with her rapist, and that's not only impossible but the idea is insulting."

She said, "We, the victims, do not want to be portrayed that way and we complained." In the immediate aftermath of the war, the issue of mass

rape of women during the conflict was a taboo topic in Bosnia. But the victims then came forward and formed the association that fights for their rights in the courts and defends their dignity in public.

The lobby has grown so strong that rarely any official in Bosnia dares to confront it. In her statement, Jolie said: "The choice to make a film about this area and set in this time in history was also to remind people of what happened not so long ago and to give attention to the survivors of the war."

The actress said she has great respect for the work of the Association of Women, Victims of War and would "like the opportunity to speak with them to personally clear up any misunderstandings about this project." □

Oprah Winfrey sending 'Daily Show' audience to DC



FILE - In this May 3, 2010 file photo, Oprah Winfrey arrives at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute gala in New York.

(AP Photo/Evan Agostini, file)

NEW YORK — It's less exotic than Australia, but still pretty good.

Oprah Winfrey surprised audience members at Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" on Thursday by saying she's sending them to Washington, D.C. this month. That's where host Jon Stewart is hosting his "Rally to Restore Sanity" in politics.

The daytime talk queen is famous for treating her audience to trips. Last month she gave people attending the first episode of her final season a trip Down Under.

She appeared via satellite Thursday on "The Daily Show" and told audience members to open red envelopes under their chairs.

Stewart planned the Oct. 30 rally shortly after Fox News Channel's Glenn Beck held one in Washington. Comedy Central's Stephen Colbert joked Thursday that his talk show host character would join Stewart and rename the event the "Rally to Restore Sanity And/Or Fear." □

Rolling Stone Keith Richards: Mick 'unbearable'

LONDON — Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards describes frontman Mick Jagger as unbearable in his soon-to-be published autobiography. Richards says he and Jagger used to be friends but have been estranged for decades. The details about his strained relationship with Jagger are spelled out in

Richards' book "Life," which will be published Oct. 26. In an interview published Friday in The Times newspaper, Richards says he has given up drugs since he required brain surgery after falling from a tree in Fiji in 2006.

He says he and Jagger are discussing another possible Stones tour despite their differences. □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

GM recalls 300,000 Impalas over seat belt problem

DETROIT — General Motors said Friday it was recalling more than 300,000 Chevrolet Impala sedans because the seat belts may fail to restrain people in the front seats during a crash.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said on its website that the front-seat belt webbing may not be secured properly to a lap belt anchor on

the side of the seat near the doors.

The recall affects Impalas from the 2009 and 2010 model years. GM said 303,100 vehicles are in the United States and more than 19,000 are in Canada. GM said in a statement that it did not know of any injuries or deaths connected to the recall. The Detroit automaker told NHTSA that it had received

32 warranty reports with the seat belt conditions through mid-August.

Dealers will inspect how the belts are anchored. They will reinstall the anchors if needed at no cost to the owners.

Owners will be notified later this month and can contact Chevrolet at 1-800-630-2438. □

Bernanke: Fed wrestles with size of aid program

By JEANNINE AVERSA,
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve is prepared to take further steps to rejuvenate the economy by buying Treasury bonds but is wrestling with how big the program should be, Chairman Ben Bernanke said Friday.

Bernanke also indicated that Fed policymakers are trying to craft a plan to lift inflation from super-low levels. He made his remarks in a speech at a Fed conference in Boston. Bernanke said the Fed must both weigh the risks of a Treasury-buying program and determine how the debt purchases should be paced. The Fed's bond purchases would be intended to lower long-term interest rates to stimulate buying and spending and help lower unemployment. Those Treasury purchases would inject many more dollars into the financial system. And that poses a longer-term risk: High inflation.

Fed policymakers are widely expected to announce a Treasury buying program at their next meeting Nov. 2-3. "There would appear — all else being equal — to be a case for further action," Bernanke said.

World stocks rose after Bernanke's remarks. But the prospect of more dollars swirling around the financial system did nothing to help the dollar itself, which slid further after the Fed chief spoke.

The economy is growing at a pace "less vigorous than

we would like," Bernanke acknowledged.

Unemployment, now at 9.6 percent, has been stuck near double digits for more than a year. Bernanke indicated that the Fed is concerned that economic growth is likely to remain lackluster and that unemployment will decline only slowly next year. High unemployment is likely to keep consumers cautious in their spending.

During the recession, the Fed launched a \$1.7 trillion program, buying a mix of mortgage securities and government debt. The effort was credited with forcing down mortgage rates and providing support to the weakened housing market.

The new program is likely to be smaller. One Fed official has suggested a \$500 billion program, while another has suggested it be \$100 billion or less.

The Fed is again resorting to such unconventional methods — called quantitative easing — to stimulate the economy because it has already sliced its key interest rate to a record low near zero. The anticipated second round is being dubbed quantitative easing two.

"Bernanke gives green light for QEII," TJ Marta, a market strategist at Marta on the Markets, said after Bernanke's speech.

For now, the Fed is more interested in seeing prices rise rather than fall

Because the economy is weak, "the risk of deflation is higher

than desirable," Bernanke said. Deflation is a widespread drop in prices, wages and the values of stocks and homes.

As Bernanke was speaking, the government issued a report that pointed to why a new Treasury-buying program may be necessary to ward off deflation. Consumer prices excluding the volatile categories of food and energy were flat or a second straight month.

A prolonged drop in prices for goods, for wages and in the values of homes and stocks is dangerous for the economy and individual Americans. Workers suffer pay cuts. Corporate profits decline. Stock values fall. People, businesses and the government find it costlier to pare debt. Foreclosures and bankruptcies rise.

And people spend less, convinced prices will fall even further if they just wait. That trend is already evident in the housing market. Many would-be buyers are standing on the sidelines, expecting home prices to fall further.

Bernanke's comments come as the Fed is weighing steps to try to raise people's expectations of where they think inflation is heading in the months ahead. A signal from the Fed that it would accept higher-than-normal inflation could aid the economy. Here's how:

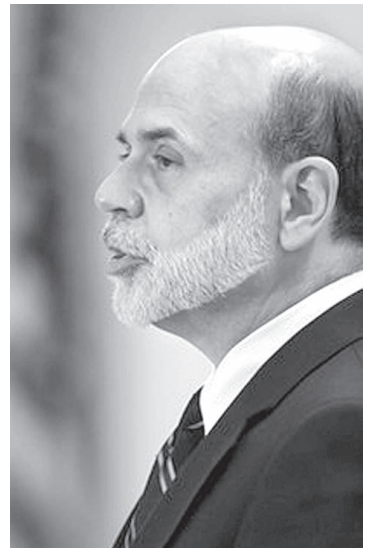
Companies would feel more inclined to raise their prices. And shoppers who thought prices were headed up would be more likely to buy now

rather than wait. Their higher spending would embolden employers to step up hiring. It would also help lift inflation from alarmingly low levels. Bernanke said the current high unemployment can be traced, in part, to the drop in business activity that followed the financial crisis and the resulting fall in customer demand.

Some economists point to two other factors, too.

Workers face difficulties moving to new cities where jobs may be available. That's because many can't easily sell their homes in depressed housing markets.

Another factor is that the skills many unemployed workers have differ from the skills companies now want.



Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke addresses a Federal Reserve conference, in Boston, Friday, Oct. 15, 2010. The Federal Reserve is prepared to take further steps to rejuvenate the economy by buying Treasury bonds but is wrestling with how big the program should be, Bernanke said Friday.

(AP Photo/Steven Senne)

DEFICIT

Continued from Page a4

Leading officials with the National Association for Business Economics forecast this week that the 2011 deficit will total \$1.2 trillion, only slightly better than the administration's estimate. They cited excessive federal debt as their single greatest concern, even more so than high unemployment.

Obama's bipartisan deficit commission is supposed to report a deficit-cutting plan on Dec. 1, but panel members are unsure at best whether they'll be able to agree on anything approaching Obama's goal of cutting the deficit to about 3 percent of the size of gross domestic product (GDP).

The recommendations of the commission need the backing of 14 of its 18 members to trigger a congressional vote. Building that level of consensus will be difficult. Republicans are strongly opposed to a plan that includes tax increases to chip away at the deficit. Democrats are less inclined to move a package that relies solely on spending cuts.

Even if Congress doesn't vote on a deficit-cutting proposal, it faces the challenge of reaching a consensus on what to do with the Bush-era tax cuts that are set to expire on Dec. 31.

The Republicans are fighting to renew all of the tax cuts. Obama and the Democrats want to extend the tax cuts for every family making less than \$250,000, but let them expire for the wealthiest households. □

Investment vultures increase pressure on Yahoo CEO



FILE - This file photo made June 7, 2010, shows a sign for Yahoo! in New York. Investors are running up the price of Yahoo shares Thursday, Oct. 14, 2010, after a report saying AOL and a group of private equity firms may bid for the Web company.

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE,
AP Technology Writer
SAN FRANCISCO — With buyout vultures circling the Internet company, Yahoo Inc. CEO Carol Bartz may have to accelerate her timetable for engineering a turnaround if she wants to save her job.

Bartz has said it could take a couple more years to revive Yahoo after a long period of listlessness, but it appears the company could become a takeover target if its financial performance doesn't improve within the next few months.

That urgency was underscored late Wednesday as The Wall Street Journal reported that another falling Internet icon, AOL Inc., is in preliminary discussions with a group of leveraged buyout firms, including Silver Lake Partners and Blackstone Group LP, about making a joint bid for Yahoo because its stock has been slumping for so long. The Journal story cited unnamed people familiar with the talks and said two or three other firms could also be interested in the deal, which could bring AOL's charismatic CEO, Tim Armstrong, to Yahoo.

It's likely an opportunistic suitor would emerge if Yahoo's revenue keeps growing at a turtle's pace while rivals such as Google Inc. and Facebook sprint further ahead as advertisers shift more of their spending to the Internet.

Although Yahoo's market value has fallen dramatically in the past few years, buying the company would still be expensive and quite complicated. That's the main reason most analysts believe

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, file)

it would take a while to put together a deal, even if Yahoo disappoints investors yet again next Tuesday when it reports its third-quarter earnings.

With no bid on the immediate horizon, Yahoo shares cooled from the heated reaction to the Journal's initial report. The stock rose 68 cents, or 4.5 percent, to \$15.93 on Thursday. It had soared by nearly 13 percent in extended trading Wednesday following the Journal's report.

Yahoo hired Bartz, a tough-talking Silicon Valley veteran, in January 2009, convinced that she would prove the company is worth more than the \$47.5 billion that Microsoft Corp. was offering to take over the company, a bid that Yahoo snubbed in May 2008. Microsoft has since forged an Internet search partnership with Yahoo in a joint challenge to Google's dominance of the Web's most lucrative ad market.

Although Bartz has won praise for negotiating the Microsoft alliance and cutting costs to boost Yahoo's profits, the company's revenue through the first half of the year edged up by less than 2 percent. By comparison, Google's rose 23 percent during the same period. That letdown has left Yahoo's stock far below Microsoft's final offer of \$33 per share, turning that bid into a millstone.

"Given everything that Yahoo shareholders have been through since then, there is a limited amount of patience left," said Ryan Jacob, portfolio manager of the Jacob Internet Fund, which

owns more than 100,000 shares. "It's not necessarily Bartz's fault, but she had to know what she was getting into coming in."

The recent defections of several top Yahoo executives have stirred speculation that Bartz is wearing out her welcome as she approaches the midway point of her four-year contract.

If that's true, it could open the door for Armstrong, 39, who could be seen as a more media-friendly, suave leader than the sometimes-cranky, profanity-spewing Bartz, 62. What's more, Armstrong's Internet background could be seen as a better fit, given that he built up Google's highly prosperous North American advertising business before leaving to become AOL's CEO last year. Bartz is more of a technologist, having previously been CEO of software maker Autodesk Inc. and a top executive at Sun Microsystems Inc.

But Armstrong's reign at AOL so far has largely mirrored Bartz's time at Yahoo. Like his counterpart, Armstrong has spent much of his time weeding out the company's unprofitable operations while focusing on bringing in more unique content in an effort to lure more Web surfers and bring in more advertisers.

Those changes haven't been enough to lift AOL's yet, making it look like a "mini-Yahoo," Jacob said.

AOL's market value is just \$2.7 billion, about 13 percent of Yahoo's \$21.5 billion. That gap means AOL would need plenty of help to buy Yahoo.

Yahoo declined a request to interview Bartz Thursday. The company, which is based in Sunnyvale, Calif., also declined to comment on the reports of a possible takeover bid. The Journal said Yahoo hasn't been involved in the talks yet.

But the board appears to be taking the talk seriously enough to have hired Goldman Sachs Group Inc. to advise directors on a possible defense, according to Bloomberg News, which also cited unnamed people. Goldman Sachs declined to

comment.

AOL and Blackstone also declined to comment Thursday. Silver Lake didn't return calls.

Despite Yahoo's struggles, there are several reasons why the company remains a takeover target.

For starters, Yahoo still boasts one of the world's best-known brands.

Its website remains alluring enough to attract an audience of nearly 600 million, although people have been spending less time there as they hang

out more frequently at trendier spots such as Facebook.

Yahoo also owns a 39 percent stake in one of China's fastest growing companies, the Alibaba Group.

That stake presumably would be sold if leveraged buyout firms were to attempt a takeover to make the bid easier to finance. Analysts have estimated that selling Yahoo's Alibaba holdings and other Asian assets could fetch anywhere from \$8 billion to \$13 billion, depending on market conditions. □

Angry Birds to Attack DS, PSP and PS3

Jillian McCoy

Angry Birds, one of the iPhone's most popular games, is moving past the mobile platform. In an interview given to British news source The Sun, the game's co-creator recently announced that the game will be ported to traditional handhelds the Nintendo DS and PSP, as well as the PS3 console. This is big news since games usually begin on other platforms and get ported to mobile devices, not the other way around.

Angry Birds is an addictive puzzler distributed by Rovio Mobile, available for play on the iPhone and iPad. In the game, some greedy green pigs made the mistake of going after birds' eggs. If you've ever seen a nature documentary, you know that trying to harm an animal's young is a bad idea. The birds get angry (hence the not-so-obtuse title), and go medieval on the pigs. Cartoonish, cute and ridiculous, this game provides hours of addictive fun over the span of its 120 levels. Angry Birds has taken off in a big way. The game has sold over 5 million copies in the span of 6 months, giving it the most explosive growth of any iPhone game. Those 5 million copies have earned Angry Birds more than \$3.1 million in sales (listed as over 2 million GBP in the article with The Sun). It's also the #1 paid app in several countries worldwide, including the US, Russia, India and France. A list of the countries who love Angry Birds can be seen on the game's page on Rovio Mobile's website.

The game's huge popularity definitely makes it the most likely candidate for a port to other platforms, but it's still surprising to see a mobile game get picked up for play on bigger systems. Like the hand-crafted games in Xbox Live Marketplace's Indie section, mobile games are often short on polish and wouldn't translate as more than a novelty. This is why independent games are often free or priced at a very low cost. Even the least expensive games for the Nintendo DS are around the \$20 price point, with PSP and PS3 games commanding even higher prices. It'll be interesting to see if Angry Birds impresses gamers who play those other platforms, or if the game's fans will be willing to buy the game again to play on an expanded system. If this game is a success, it could encourage independent developers to work harder on their products in hopes of bringing them to the big time. □

Belgian Church head criticized for AIDS remarks



Archbishop of Mechelen-Brussels and Primate of Belgium Andre-Joseph Leonard looks on during a news conference in Brussels June 25, 2010.

By Philip Blenkinsop

BRUSSELS — Belgium's Roman Catholic Church, already reeling from allegations of sexual abuse, faced a new scandal Friday after its primate wrote that AIDS was "a sort of inherent justice."

Many lawmakers condemned Archbishop Andre-Joseph Leonard, the head of the Belgian church, for the remarks in a new book and

Belgium's center for equal opportunities received a series of complaints, including one by a lawyer who said his comments were incitement to hatred.

The Church is struggling to recover from the resignation of the Bishop of Bruges in April after he admitted sexually abusing a nephew.

In his book "Monseigneur Leonard - Conversations," the archbishop referred to

a remark by the late Pope John Paul II who said, when asked whether AIDS was a punishment from God, that it was difficult to judge God's will.

"I would not at all think in such terms. I do not see this illness as a punishment, at most a sort of inherent justice, a bit like how we are presented with the bill for what we do to the environment," Leonard said.

"Perhaps human love also wreaks revenge if it is mishandled without there having to be a transcendental source."

Jean Marie de Meester, a lawyer from Oostkamp near Bruges, said he had filed a complaint with the Center for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism.

"You can claim freedom of speech, but in his position he needs to be careful what he says. It has a lot of influence," he said.

"The comments are not

just unfortunate. They are incitement to hatred... In its current condition, the Church does not have the moral right to judge others."

The Center said it shared the indignation that the archbishop's comments had caused, even if they did not break the anti-discrimination law.

"He threatens to create a discriminatory climate for people with HIV or AIDS and by extension people with other illnesses or a handicap," it said in a statement.

Leonard told a news conference Friday he felt he had been misunderstood as regarding AIDS in all forms as a punishment. He said his words referred to promiscuous sex.

"It was not about AIDS from a blood transfusion or as an illness with which someone has been born," he said.

"If someone gets lung cancer from smoking, the cancer is a sort of inherent justice. The actions, consciously done, have a result."

He also said he was targeting "certain practices" and not HIV positive people or those with AIDS, who should not be discriminated against. □

'Green' burials require no coffins or chemicals

By MANUEL VALDES,
Associated Press Writer

GOLDENDALE, Wash. — Steve Sall moved forward on uneven, rocky terrain in his motorized wheelchair and came to a stop at the edge of a sweeping vista of ponderosa pines and bright pockets of yellow wildflowers.

Before being stricken three years ago with Lou Gehrig's disease, the 61-year-old Oregon resident who was an avid hiker would have backpacked this canyon. Instead, he was there to pick out his grave site.

Three months later, Sall was laid to rest in the forest. He would be among the small but growing number of Americans choosing environmentally friendly burials. The so-called "green burials" are a departure from the norm in that they don't use concrete vaults, metal coffins or any chemicals.

The Green Burial Council, an industry group that sets standards, now counts more than 300 approved providers in 40 states, while only a dozen existed as recently as the beginning of 2008.

And a March 2010 survey commissioned by the International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association found a quarter of those polled liked the concept of environmentally friendly burials.

"We think of this as a new idea, but this is really an ancient idea we're returning to," said Joe Sehee, executive director of the New Mexico-based council.

A burial in the wilderness was especially appealing to Sall after spending so much of his life hiking mountains and forests across

the Pacific Northwest. He was also heavily involved in his son's Boy Scout experience, often accompanying the troop on nature excursions.

As Lou Gehrig's disease advanced earlier this year, Sall knew it was time to consider end-of-life logistics. He thought about cremation, but didn't like the idea of pumping gases into the atmosphere, said his son, David.

Sall began researching green burials on the Internet, eventually finding the website for the White Eagle Memorial Preserve, a natural burial grounds about 15 miles from the small town of Goldendale.

For a few moments in June, Sall was outdoors again, the forest before him. From his wheelchair, he spotted a ponderosa pine he liked with a surrounding meadow and his heart was set.

Sall communicated by pointing a pencil to a laminated piece of paper with a grid full of letters and conjunctions. His wife and son had become practiced at translating his thoughts over the course of his debilitating illness.

"I have been a hiker and a climber, as we drove in I felt very comfortable, like going home," he said, communicating through his wife.

The Salls bought two plots — one for Steve and one for his wife Teri — for about \$4,800. Steve Sall died in September.

"I know that Steve loves nature so much," Teri Sall said at the time of picking his plot. "Having him rest somewhere in a place that he loves more than, you know, a cemetery that's kind of sterile and has sad things associated with it, just seemed like the thing to do." □

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Herbal Weight-Loss Supplements Loaded with Illicit Drugs

Joseph Brownstein

While herbal weight-loss supplements may bring the promise of shedding pounds using "natural" products, a new study shows that many are laden with pharmaceutical agents (lab-made drugs) - some of which are illegal. The researchers analyzed 81 weight-loss products that had been taken by 66 patients who had come in to the hospital for treatment for poisoning. One of the patients had died. While the authors caution their findings should not be interpreted as a full analysis of the weight-loss supplement market, they found two or more pharmaceutical agents in 61 supplements they tested, and two supplements contained six of these drugs.

"A wide variety of illicit, weight-reducing agents has been found in proprietary slimming products that are readily available to the public. Importantly, ingestion of these products may result in significant toxicities and even mortality," said the study authors, who are researchers at the Princess Margaret Hospital in Hong Kong.

While the study's research took place in Hong Kong, the problems have reached America's shores.

"This is exactly the same issue that we're faced with here," said Dr. Pieter Cohen, a general internist at Cambridge Health Alliance and an assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. Cohen said that due to their surveillance procedures for drugs, researchers in Hong Kong are "often on the vanguard of identifying problems."

In the United States, an estimated \$34 billion is spent annually on alternative medicine, including supplements. But the products, sometimes called botanical supplements or herbal remedies, are not well studied and in many cases could be dangerous, according to a study earlier this year in Chemical & Engineering News.

In late 2008 and early 2009, the Food and Drug

Administration made three announcements, alerting consumers about a total of 72 weight-loss supplements containing undeclared drugs. Those recalls found drugs in the products that included sibutramine, a controlled substance then-prescribed for weight loss, and fluoxetine, an antidepressant best known as Prozac.

The most common agent found in the supplements in the Hong Kong study was sibutramine, which was detected in 59 of the products tested.

Sibutramine was sold under the trade name Meridia in the United States. The anti-obesity drug was voluntarily withdrawn by the manufacturer last week, after a study showed it was associated with an elevated risk of heart attack and stroke.

But a number of supplements tested in the study also contained banned drugs. Thirteen weight loss supplements contained the appetite suppressant fenfluramine.

"Fenfluramine is the bad actor of the Fen-phen diet pill," said Cohen, referring to the weight-loss drug pulled from the U.S. market in 1997 for its association with heart attacks.

A second banned substance found in the supplements, the laxative phenolphthalein, was outlawed because of an association with cancer.

Cohen said perhaps the most disturbing finding was the presence of analog drugs in the supplements. Analogs are drug molecules that have been further modified in a lab.

"This hasn't even been studied in mice," said Cohen. "This is really using the consumer... as guinea pigs."

The fact that herbal supplements may contain pharmaceuticals, allowing pills to show benefit to consumers while under the guise of being natural, is not a new discovery.

But Cohen said findings like these make trouble for consumers, as they cannot simply make a choice to take a supplement based on the research. □



Activists fly a kite to protest against the cultivation of genetically modified maize. An international meeting on biodiversity held in Japan Friday agreed on rules which hold businesses liable if genetically modified organisms they have imported pollute ecosystems, a report said.

Japan biodiversity meet adopts rules on GM crop damages

TOKYO – An international meeting on biodiversity held in Japan Friday agreed on rules which hold businesses liable if genetically modified organisms they have imported pollute ecosystems, a report said.

The meeting on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety reached agreement ahead of the major Convention on Biological Diversity which opens in the Japanese city of Nagoya on Monday.

The protocol holds business operators liable if genetically modified (GM) organisms which they had imported from other countries or companies pollute ecosystems and risk human health, Kyodo News said.

The protocol will open for signatures at the UN headquarters from March. The accord takes effect 90

days after 40 countries and regions ratify it.

Japan hopes to ratify it in autumn next year after obtaining parliamentary approval, Kyodo said, citing government officials.

Talks on compensation for damage caused to ecosystems by GM organisms began in earnest in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur in 2004.

The international biodiversity conference opening on Monday, which includes more than 190 countries and NGOs, is due to discuss how to pay for the "equitable sharing" of the benefits from natural resources.

The talks will also discuss a fresh target on preserving animal and plant species that are disappearing mostly as a result of human activity.

Species under threat include 21 percent of all known mammals, 30 percent of known amphibians and 12 percent of known birds, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Scientists warn that wildlife habitat destruction is destroying ecosystems that give humans "environmental services" such as clean water and air and are vital for climate control and food production. □

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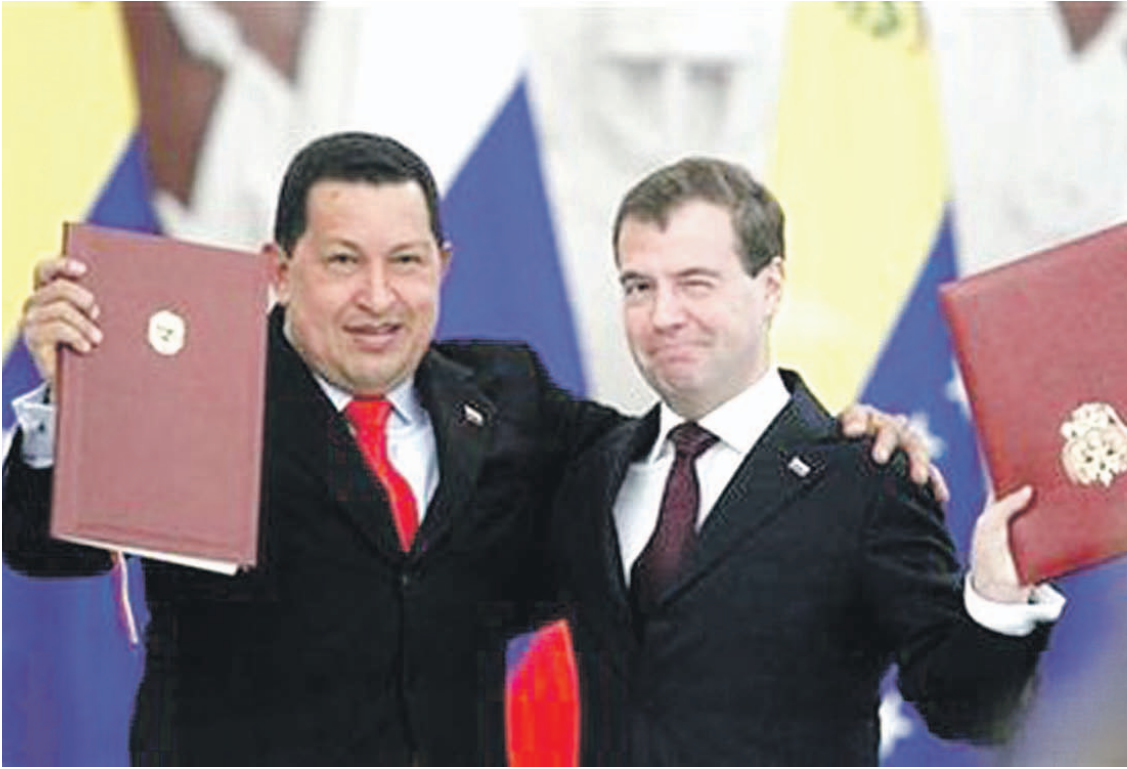
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Rusia construirá planta energía nuclear en Venezuela

MOSCU (Reuters) - Rusia acordó el viernes construir la primera estación de energía nuclear en Venezuela y comprar 1.600 millones de dólares en activos de la estatal PDVSA, reforzando sus lazos con el presidente Hugo Chávez, con quien comparte su oposición a la hegemonía global de Estados Unidos. Chávez presidió los acuerdos en una ceremonia en el Kremlin con su homólogo ruso, Dmitry Medvedev, quien dijo que los países comparten una "sociedad estratégica" y una visión de un mundo libre de la abrumadora influencia estadounidense. "Ambos, Rusia y Venezuela, estamos a favor del desarrollo de un nuevo y justo orden mundial donde nuestro futuro no dependa de la voluntad ni



El presidente de Venezuela, Hugo Chávez (izq), junto al presidente ruso Dmitry Medvedev (der), mostrando los documentos firmados durante una reunión en Moscú. Oct 15 2010. REUTERS/Denis Sinyakov

del deseo de ningún país, de su bienestar o de su estado de ánimo", dijo Medvedev. Luego de la reunión entre ambos mandatarios, el jefe de la agencia nuclear rusa, Sergei Kiriyenko, y el canciller venezolano, Nicolás Maduro, firmaron un acuerdo para "la construcción y el uso de una estación de energía atómica en el territorio de Venezuela". Rusia, que recientemente terminó de construir la primera planta nuclear de Irán, ha presionado para expandir su presencia en el mercado global de la energía atómica y defiende el derecho de otras naciones a su uso pacífico. Medvedev dio a entender que al enemigo de Chávez, Estados Unidos, podría no gustarle el acuerdo, pero dijo que era pacífico. □

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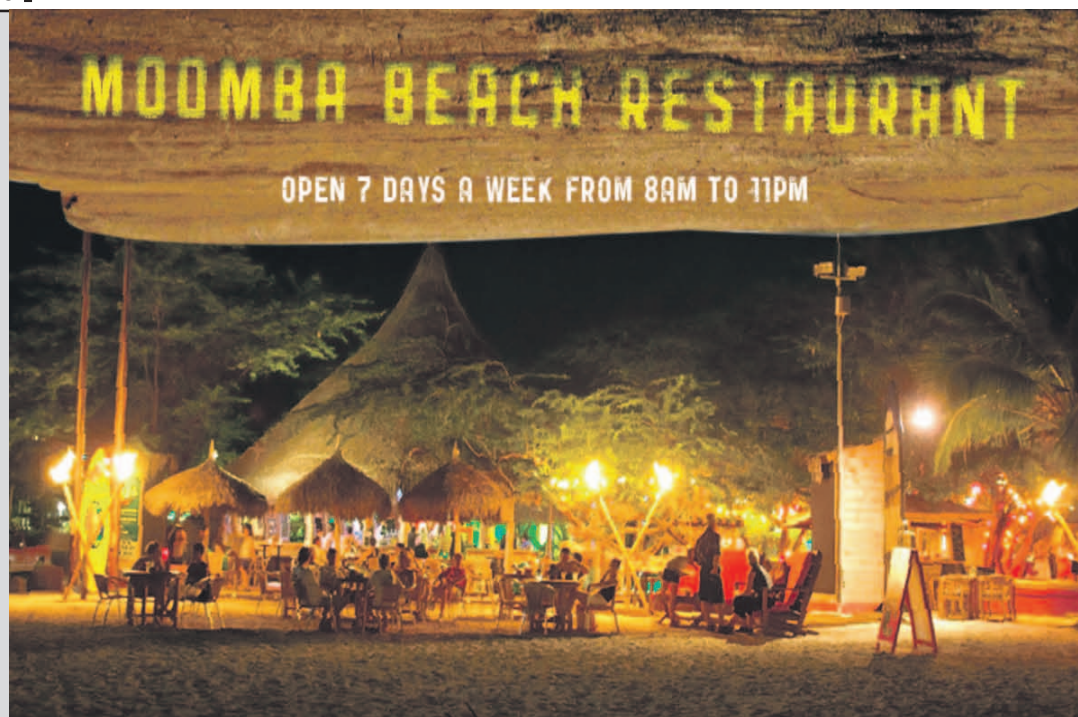
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